

Thatcher moves to silence men behind the IRA

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

The Prime Minister yesterday called for a fresh assessment of the defences available against terrorism, with a special emphasis on stopping republican politicians inciting violence.

The Cabinet spent nearly an hour discussing the repercussions of last Saturday's Harrods bombing, which killed five people and injured 90 others, and agreed that things could not be left as they were.

It paid particular attention to what it regards as the growing menace of incitement to violence by prominent figures in the republican community.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, and the law officers were therefore asked to consider not only further measures of policing and security but also how the common law against incitement to violence could be more effectively applied.

They will report back to the Cabinet early in the new year.

As expected, the Cabinet decided against prescribing Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, accepting Mr Prior's advice that such a ban could not be effective and would not help the situation in Northern Ireland.

The Government's policy in this respect therefore remains as it was, although it was emphasised afterwards that it will be kept under review.

MPs were last night attaching

significance to the decision to examine how the incitement of the defences available against terrorism, with a special emphasis on stopping republican politicians inciting violence.

The Ministers have become increasingly aware of public offence at statements by leading republican politicians about what they see as the legitimate link between the bullet and the ballot box.

Ministers believe such remarks would almost certainly come under the law on incitement because they amount to encouragement for terrorist acts.

There was little clue in Whitehall last night on what further measures ministers might recommend, although increased deployment of manpower and improvement of intelligence links seemed most likely.

There appears to be little Government enthusiasm for interment of suspected terrorists or the introduction of identity cards, but the ending of official contacts with Sinn Fein is likely to be considered.

Financing terror, page 2

Rate Bill attack by Rippón

Mr Geoffrey Rippón, a former Conservative Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs that the Government's rate capping Bill was deplorable and a classic example of elective dictatorship.

But the measure was defended by Mrs Margaret Thatcher as being overwhelmingly popular among ratepayers.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Trade rebound

Britain's trade figures showed an estimated surplus of £317m last month after a £219m deficit in October as exports had their second best month ever. Page 13

Shipyard vote

Workers at the threatened Scott Lithgow shipyard have supported the call for a national shipbuilding strike over pay from January 6

Page 2



Oil price held

BNOC is to hold the price of North Sea oil at \$30 a barrel for four months to the relief of Opec producers. Page 13

Pound saver

The Prime Minister seems to have saved the £1 note for now, after reports of Treasury attempts to spirit it away and leave only the coin. Page 3

Bank strike

Many high street banks face serious disruption this afternoon as some counter clerks walk out in protest at losing their Christmas "early closing" perk. Page 3

Postal peace

Post Office staff at Shepherds Bush, west London, who have been on strike since December 1, are returning to work today.

England dates

England now know their schedule of qualifying games for the 1986 World Cup finals. Page 17

Leader page, 11

Letters on wages councils, from Mr C Pond; video fears, from Mr N March; Hunnings; small businesses from Lord Wilson of Rievaulx.

Leading articles: the pound - note or coin? Housing for the elderly. Features, pages 8-10

Dr Fitzgerald's appeal for a concerted attack on the IRA; Robert Fisk visits the British peace-keeping HQ in Beirut; 70 years of word-crosses. Friday Page; a PS from Peter Rabbit Spectrum; Namibia's insecurity forces. Obituary, page 12

Lord Pilkington, Raymond Mander

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Swedish hamlet may not welcome Santa back

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Most of the 300 inhabitants of the Swedish village of Gessunda are all for Santa Claus. Others are more dubious and there is mounting opposition here to Mr Claus's projected arrival.

The bone of contention is the plan of Mr Mark McCormack, the American businessman and sports magnate, to establish in a patch of forest at the foot of a local mountain, Santsland, a tourist complex comprising Father Christmas's home and workshops and such garish additions as the Palace of the Snow Queen, a dinosaur park and a multi-order toy company.

The idea came from two Englishmen, Mr Ken Edwards and Mr Gerry O'Sullivan, who work for Mr McCormack's Leisure World International in London. It would produce the



project. "The council will not be involved financially but a group has been working to get the scheme off the ground since 1981," he said. "It will be a quality investment also involv-

ing children's charity organizations."

There are hopes that thousands of letters from children all over the world, which at this time of the year arrive here, addressed simply to Father Christmas, Sweden, will be returned to Santsland and dealt with there.

Mrs Ann-Britt Persson, who works in Gessunda's only shop, said: "Our village is in dire need of employment, otherwise families here will not be able to stay together. Santsland will provide work and there will be opportunities for various services to be set up to cater for the complex."

But another villager, Mrs Siv Andersson, said: "I don't like the idea at all. Our nature will be ruined and no one has any idea how much we will actually benefit."

Santsland also faces opposition from Sweden's "Greens", the environmental party (Miljöpartiet). Mrs Jill Lindgren, the chairman, said local activists were planning demonstrations.

Mr Ingemar Ljungqvist, a communist, was the only councillor of 47 to vote against the proposal. He commented: "As an attempt to import Coca Cola culture into the area."

If the project survives, a big question remains: who will be Santa Claus? One Santa, as envisaged by the backers, would be a deviation from Swedish tradition which allows for many.

These "santas" (as they are known locally) arrive *ex-mas* on Christmas Eve, leaving presents in exchange for bowls of grating cold rice pudding.

No police action on Waldorf officers

By Stewart Tendler and Thomson Prentice

The three London detectives involved in the mistaken shooting of Mr Steven Waldorf last January will not face disciplinary charges. The Police Complaints Board announced yesterday that they accepted a Scotland Yard report recommending no action.

Detective Constable Peter Finch and Detective Constable John Jardine, both aged 38, were acquitted by a jury at the Central Criminal Court in October of attempting to murder Mr Waldorf, a freelance film editor. They have been suspended from duty since January, and are now returning to work.

The third man mentioned in the report, Detective Constable John Deane, was not charged with any criminal offence and returned to duty after a short suspension. All three will be excluded from police firearms duties for the rest of their careers.

In a statement last night the Police Complaints Board said it endorsed a report sent to it by Deputy Commissioner Albert Laughran, who has overall responsibility for discipline matters in the Metropolitan Police. The report had been based on an investigation by the complaints investigation bureau which treated the case as a complaint by Mr Waldorf, although he never officially lodged one.

The board said no charge of abuse of authority, which would cover the use of unnecessary violence by a policeman, could be brought against Mr Jardine and Mr Finch as a result of their acquittal at the Central Criminal Court. Under section 16 of the Police Act 1972, disciplinary charges were precluded if they were in substance the same as those which had led to an acquittal.

Since charges would not be brought against the men who faced trial no disciplinary charge would be brought against the third officer.

It is understood that both the board and Mr Laughran consulted counsel before making their final recommendations.

In a statement last night Scotland Yard said a decision on the future duties of the detectives would be taken in due course, but "they will not be called upon to use firearms again during their careers."

Scotland Yard is still negotiating with Mr Waldorf's legal advisers for compensation. Mr Waldorf, aged 27, was wounded five times by police bullets, and pistol-whipped as he lay injured after he was mistaken for a wanted man.

The statement said the police recognized Mr Waldorf had a claim against them.

At his parents' home last night, Mr Waldorf said: "The outcome is no more or less than I expected, but it can't be right".

Zimbabwe Air Force officers freed

From Our Correspondent

The last three white Air Force officers detained in connection with the Zimbabwean warplane sabotage case were released here yesterday after 16 months' imprisonment.

Wing Commander John Cox, aged 36, Air Lieutenant Cox, aged 31, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, aged 24, walked out of the Chikurubi maximum security prison in Harare at 11.30. All three have been given orders of liberation stipulating that they leave the country within seven days.

A family friend of Mr Cox, Captain Cox, who was taken to Zimbabwe, said: "The girmans intended to remain in Zimbabwe for several days to officially resign from the Air Force."

There is speculation that Wing Commander Cox's medical condition helped to bring forward the release. His wife, Sandy, said last week that he could lose the sight of one eye without laser treatment to stop internal bleeding. The treatment is not available in Zimbabwe.

The acting Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Simbi Mubaka, said the men were being allowed to remain in Zimbabwe temporarily to wind up their affairs. They were released on the recommendation of the country's detention review tribunal, which reviewed their cases two weeks ago.

Mr Cox, the most senior of the officers who acted as leaders during the months in detention, said yesterday: "This is the best Christmas present the rest of us could have had" (Our Foreign Staff writes).

But he added: "It must be remembered that they should never have been taken back to jail in the first place. They have lost 16 months out of their lives."

Air Vice-Marshall Hugh Slatter, the managing director, believes the delay has been caused by the Treasury's concern over the effect the granting of aid would have on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

The A320 will complete the

three-member Airbus family

and provide increased capacity.

The aircraft, the A320, is due in service by 1988.

He said: "I am not prepared to see this company starved of finance just to get the A320 project going. We are going to protect our other projects in British Aerospace. We have got high technology skills and they need to be maintained."

Confirmed on back page, col 5

Egypt heals rift with Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A profound change in the apparently seen by the White political complexion of the Middle East was signalled yesterday as the dramatic reconciliation between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization after an unexpected two-hour private meeting in Cairo - between President Mubarak and Mr Yassir Arafat.

There was speculation that the rapprochement - the first of its kind since Egypt signed the Camp David treaty with Israel in March 1979 - could assist in reviving the deadlocked Middle East peace process via renewed negotiations between the PLO and Jordan which could now enjoy Egyptian blessing.

The Reagan Administration is still hopeful of resurrecting its 1982 peace initiative, which is why it put strong pressure on Israel to permit the PLO "evacuation" from the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli to go ahead unthundered. Mr Arafat is

One immediate result was to plunge Israeli-Egyptian relations to their lowest point since the Camp David treaty was signed. In his incredulous statement, Mr Shamir - one of the original Israeli opponents of the peace treaty - recalled that immediately after the murder of President Sadat, Mr Arafat and his supporters had danced for joy in the streets of Beirut.

Mr Shamir's outspoken attack was quickly followed by Israel's Foreign Ministry which alleged that the Cairo meeting, which had begun with a formal embrace between the two participants, was a "grave blow" to the peace process.

The Foreign Ministry added: "There will be no peace or stability in the Middle East until the murderous PLO disappears from the international scene."

The force of Israel's condemnation reflected deep concern here that Mr Arafat has succeeded in extricating his political credibility from the military defeat of Tripoli. The reconciliation was, thought

Continued on back page, col 2

Eagle Star record bid is matched

West German insurer Allianz Versicherungen yesterday matched BAT's record £924m takeover bid for Eagle Star Holdings, with a £75p per share offer to shareholders.

The bid from Allianz is the seventh in the fiercely contested battle for Eagle Star which began 10 weeks ago. Allianz made its latest offer after the City's Takeover Panel set a deadline of 4.30pm on December 30 for the final bidding. Last

Eagle Star said that although both bids were equal its board believed strongly that BAT is more appropriate parent.

However the outcome of the bids was made more difficult to predict last night by reports that BAT and Allianz had arranged a meeting to discuss a way of resolving the battle before the December 30 deadline.

Finance and Industry, page 13



Quality in an age of change.

Workers at threatened shipyard support national strike call

By David Fellow, Labour Correspondent

Workers at the threatened Scott Lithgow shipyard on the Clyde yesterday voted to support a national shipbuilding strike in the new year.

A mass meeting of about 2,000 of the 4,200 Scott Lithgow workforce yesterday backed the call for a national strike, repeated by union leaders on Wednesday night after British Shipbuilders refused to reopen negotiations unless the strike threat was lifted.

Mr Duncan McNeill, union convenor at Scott Lithgow, said after yesterday's meeting in Glasgow: "We don't relish the prospect of a strike, but if British Shipbuilders have made up their minds that we fit the bill at Scott Lithgow to solve overcapacity, then it does not matter whether we are on strike or not."

In the Commons yesterday the Prime Minister emphasized the Government's refusal to be drawn into the dispute, and added: "I think the Government has already shown how much it is prepared to do for shipbuilding. Since 1979 British Shipbuilders have received some £250m."

Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State at the

Department of Trade and Industry, later told MPs that the Government accepted that the closure of the Scott Lithgow yard would be devastating for workers and their families. "We recognize the implications could be appalling and wider than the immediate financial loss to those affected," he said.

Earlier, Mr Peter Shore, shadow secretary for trade and industry, had called on the Government to make a final effort to avoid the strike threatened by the industry's 66,000 hourly-paid workers from January 6. "The holiday period now upon us should not be allowed to stand in the way of further efforts to reach an agreement. It would be criminal if this dispute, which has grave implications for the future of the industry, was allowed to proceed," Mr Shore said.

The strike has been called by the 17 unions in the industry in protest at British Shipbuilders' insistence that a 27-week pay rise was contingent on agreement to a 10-point package of changes in long-established working practices.

British Shipbuilders has said that acceptance of the productivity proposals is essential

for the survival of the industry, but the unions have said that the management is asking for too much too quickly. British Shipbuilders has told the unions that any further talks on the dispute would be only to clarify the management's position on the survival plan and not to discuss changes in it.

Managers at Scott Lithgow, which is threatened with closure after the cancellation of an £86m order from Britain for an oil rig, fear that the national strike could also jeopardize completion of a £60m rig for BP.

● Members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, voted by a four to one majority in a shipyard ballot not to take part in the strike.

● Clerical and computer staff at British Shipbuilders yards in the North-west have decided not to take part in the strike.

● Union leaders at Smith's Dock on Teesside yesterday rejected management offers of local talks aimed at preventing the yard from being drawn into the strike. Management said they believed local negotiations could achieve a deal acceptable to the yard's 1,700 workers.

Two of the 17 people detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by Strathclyde police appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday.

Donald Anderson, aged 46, and a boy aged 16, were charged with conspiring to further the aims of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party by violent means and with obtaining 70 sticks of dynamite.

They made no plea and were remanded in custody.

● GPs oppose new deputies rule

Government proposals for restricting the use of deputizing services by general practitioners would mean the closure of most of the services and substantial disruption of the remainder, the British Medical Association has told Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the BMA's general medical services committee, says there would be a serious effect on service to patients if the minister's proposals were not radically modified.

Mr Clarke said Mr Jenkins was worried about opposition to abolition. "I am dismayed that a minister should suggest that any independent assessment must be open to question while at the same time he is seeking to push his abolition plans through purely on the basis of broad estimates."

Mr Jenkins gave two reasons for not paying for the next part of the study. One was that a costing of abolition could not be done until plans had been made by the councils to take over the work of those being abolished.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has promised that it will not demonstrate in London during Christmas or new year so that the police can concentrate on hunting IRA terrorists.

CND said yesterday that the decision to postpone any demonstration had been taken after last week's Harrow's bombing, in which five people had died. Senior CND officials will meet next month, however, to plan continued protests.

● Two members of Catholic Peace Action, Mrs Sara Hipperson, aged 55, and Dr Ray Towey, aged 39, were jailed for seven days yesterday after refusing to be bound over by Bow Street Magistrates' Court to keep the peace (the Press Association reports).

They had chained themselves to pillars outside the Ministry of Defence building in London on October 11.

● Greenham protest

CND calls off demonstrations

By David Cross

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Thatcher criticized the protest and said that it would have been "nice gesture" if the organisers had called off Tuesday's demonstration.

The Prime Minister was replying to a question from Mr Tim Eggar, Conservative MP for Enfield North, who had condemned the protest for taking police officers away from street patrol duties.

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● Many university teachers are already engaged on fixed-term contracts, with no life tenure. Sir Keith wants to change the emphasis so that universities will remain free to give permanent positions to those of exceptional merit, but so that most academic staff will normally be subject to three-month's notice, as in other professions.

Where the governing body of a university wishes to change its charter, the change requires the approval of the Privy Council, which in practice takes the advice of the secretary of state.

At present, according to sources within the department, three institutions are seeking to retain, in altered charters, the traditions "good cause" rule, which conveys indefinite tenure. In each case Sir Keith is resisting the perpetuation of a tradition to which he objects.

The three cases at issue are:

● The University College of Aberystwyth, which has been discussing a modern supplementary charter with the department for several years;

● The Institute of Education, which is owned by London University and is seeking a new charter so as to become a school of the university;

● The University of Sussex, which, although founded as recently as 1961, is negotiating for changes in its charter and statutes, possesses the "good cause" rule and wishes to retain it.

● Ambulance stolen

Two ambulances carrying out a patient from a hospital in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, yesterday saw their ambulance being driven off. It was found about half a mile away undamaged but full of beer cans.

Police to press for court costs

By Richard Dewden

Kent police are to apply to magistrates for administrative costs in bringing prosecutions, which could offset the police bill by between £100,000 and £200,000 a year.

The force said the scheme was to apply on behalf of the public for the costs of a prosecution.

"It is of course up to the courts to decide who pays costs. It has been estimated that with the cost of police and clerical salaries and so forth, it costs £10 an hour for a guilty plea and £20 an hour for a not guilty plea. In those areas where the courts ask for an estimate of costs beforehand that is what we have," he said.

The force denied that there would be any attempt to press defendants into pleading guilty by warning them of the court costs.

Jenkin rules out cash for council study

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, refused yesterday to contribute towards the fee for an independent study on the cost of the abolition of the six English metropolitan counties.

He said that it was too soon to make a useful estimate, but took his criticism further in a letter to the leader of one of the threatened authorities.

His decision means that ratepayers in the counties will have to meet the £180,000 needed for a costing by Coopers & Lybrand, the management consultants. They have paid £40,000 for a critical study of the Government's abolition plan.

Mr Jenkin gave two reasons for not paying for the next part of the study. One was that a costing of abolition could not be done until plans had been made by the councils to take over the work of those being abolished.

The other was the commission from the threatened councils to Coopers & Lybrand concentrated wholly on spending by the councils. That was only one reason for getting rid of them, Mr Jenkin said. The other was that they had "too few real functions" to justify their existence. The councils are Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and South and West Yorkshire.

Mr Jenkin questioned the aims of the consultants' study in a letter to Mr Bernard Clarke, leader of the Greater Manchester abolition authority.

Mr Clarke said Mr Jenkin was worried about opposition to abolition. "I am dismayed that a minister should suggest that any independent assessment must be open to question while at the same time he is seeking to push his abolition plans through purely on the basis of broad estimates."

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PARLIAMENT December 22 1983

Economic good cheer from Chancellor

THE ECONOMY

The recovery that was occurring in the economy was giving great cheer to the British people and great despondency to the Labour Party. Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the Commons shortly before the House adjourned for its Christmas recess.

He said that provided the Government maintained firm control of public expenditure he remained confident that it would be able to reduce the level of taxation during the lifetime of this Parliament.

He agreed it was particularly bad that the poor should pay such a large proportion of their income in taxation and there was a strong case for raising the tax thresholds as soon as he had the room to do so responsibly.

Mr Lawson said output this year was expected to be about 3 per cent higher than last year and there was room for cautious satisfaction that the rate of unemployment now appeared to have levelled off.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mosley Hill, Lab) said that if CBI figures were correct, the economy would be 2 per cent and that would mean stabilising at the present level of unemployment.

Mr Lawson: Of course there is concern about the level of unemployment but employment is rising for the first time since the recession began.

The Treasury has made its best forecast and its track record is considerably better than outside bodies. The forecast of the European Commission is that our growth next year will be higher than any country in the Community, as indeed it has been this year.

Mr Ian Lloyd (Hayes, C) in the context of comments this (Thursday) morning on the radio on the durable OECD report on Britain's economy, did he hear the grotesque pieces of economic blasphemy by Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow chancellor which amounted to a rag bag of discredited jargon? Rather than the sermon on the Mount it was more like one on Mount Desolation.

Mr Lawson: He is right. Of course Mr Hattersley's record as a recessionist is well known. We remember, for example, that during

the election campaign he said there was no doubt inflation would be in double figures by the end of this year if the Government remained in office.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab) None of the major industrialised countries suffered a greater collapse in industrial and manufacturing output than under this Government between 1979 and 1983. When will manufacturing output return to its level of May 1979 - before or after 1990?

Mr Lawson: I do not know when manufacturing output is going to be at the 1979 level. What is encouraging is that output as a whole in this country is already back to the level it was at the peak in 1979 and is continuing to rise.

Mr Alan Hewart (Stratford-on-Avon, C): Having regard to the present rates of growth in the UK economy, he recently assumed the duties of Father Christmas and having regard to his prospective new growth will he agree further and further? Fairy Godmother wave his magic wand to endow our friends in the United States with a medium-term financial strategy?

Mr Lawson: Not being in possession of a magic wand, I am afraid I am unable to perform that miracle, although it would be very desirable if it were to be brought about. I am grateful for the role in which he casts me. It is rather better than the Ghost of Christmas Past which was that adopted by Mr Hattersley on the wireless this morning.

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not of the fiscal deficit. They have another advantage - there is no Socialist party in the United States.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C) asked whether the Chancellor had any further evidence of a recovery in investment in the United Kingdom.

Mr Lawson: Total investment in the first three quarters of this year is estimated to have been about 4.5 per cent higher than in the same period last year. The December Department of Industry intentions survey points to a 7 per cent increase in industrial investment next year, including a 9 per cent increase in manufacturing.

Mr Carlisle would like to know if this trend is to be consolidated in the new year not only will profits have to continue to increase but to ensure that interest rates start to come down again?

Mr Lawson: He is right. Because the level of public borrowing will need to be brought down as a proportion of GNP.

Mr Lawson added later: I am hopeful that over the next three years to be able to maintain the total volume of public expenditure constant in real terms.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C) asked whether the Chancellor to do so responsibly, but he said he was not able to do so because he cast his vote in favour of the American growth rate, expected to be 5 per cent next year and brought about by policies which the Prime Minister so viciously condemned recently.

Mr Lawson: I am pleased, but I am surprised to see her enthusiasm for President Reagan and his policies (Conservative cheers). It is not evident every day in the House.

The Americans have followed a tight control of the money supply.

Government is quite willing, indeed eager, to ignore these improvements and to disregard the positive response of the shop stewards committee to come together with the management to hammer out an agreement on job flexibility and interchangeability.

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Arafat-Mubarak talks raise hopes for revived US peace plan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The internece fighting within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), culminating in this week's evacuation of Mr Yasser Arafat and 4,000 of his fighters from Lebanon, has raised hope in Washington that President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative can be revived early in the new year.

US officials said they were extremely encouraged by yesterday's meeting between the PLO leader and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. Relations between Mr Arafat and Egypt have been under severe strain since the 1979 Camp David accord.

US officials are hoping the PLO leader will hold talks soon with King Husain of Jordan and give him the green light to enter negotiations with Egypt and Israel on Palestine autonomy.

The Americans regard an acceptance by King Husain to join the negotiations on behalf of Jordan and the Palestinians as an essential first step towards implementation of Mr Reagan's September 1982 peace initiative.

If Jordan agrees to participate then, according to the official view in Washington, Israel will be forced to reconsider its rejection of the Reagan plan.

The President's peace plan calls for the establishment of a self-governing Palestinian state

in the West Bank and Gaza "in association with Jordan."

Earlier this year King Husain held talks with Mr Arafat about the possibility of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate the future of the occupied territories on the basis of the Reagan plan.

However, Mr Arafat refused to give King Husain the necessary go-ahead and, as a result, the US initiative has been on ice for the past eight months.

King Husain has made it clear all along he would agree to participate in the negotiations only if he had the backing of the Palestinians and "moderate" Arab states.

Mr Arafat's refusal to support him last April was largely due to the influence of Syria, which is strongly opposed to the Reagan plan. However, Syria has now lost that influence over Mr Arafat because of its support for PLO rebels during the recent fighting in Tripoli.

US officials concede they are uncertain how much influence Mr Arafat retains over the now deeply divided PLO.

However, they believe he still enjoys the support of a majority of Palestinians living in the occupied territories and that he will continue to be recognized formally as the PLO leader by most Arab countries.

Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, who

France and US given deadline in Beirut

Beirut (Reuter) - The Islamic Jihad organization yesterday claimed responsibility for Wednesday's lorry bomb attack here and warned French troops and US marines to withdraw within 10 days.

The organization made the claim and issued the warning in an anonymous call to a foreign news agency. A French soldier and at least 10 Lebanese civilians died from the blast.

The male caller told the agency that his group would "cause a real earthquake" under the feet of French and US troops of the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut unless they pulled out within the specified period.

The Islamic Jihad is believed to be a fundamentalist group with ties in Iran.

The force of the blast, estimated to have been caused by a ton of explosives packed into the lorry which struck Beirut and many thought the capital had been hit by an earthquake. An apartment building collapsed from the explosion.

Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for most attacks on French and US troops since they arrived in September 1982 including the two suicide bomb raids on October 23 which killed 241 American servicemen and 58 French troops.

On Wednesday a hitherto unknown group calling itself the Black Hand telephoned the Black Hand telephone of the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio station claiming responsibility for the latest attack.

It was revealed in Paris yesterday that France, whose forces in Lebanon were the main target on Wednesday night, is to begin delivery soon of a big arms shipment to the Lebanese Army, including 100 tanks and 10 combat and transport helicopters. This will dramatically increase the strength of the Lebanese Army, which is closely identified with Lebanon's ruling Christians, whom the bombers and their supporters hope to destabilize.

The AMX 13 light tanks have 90 mm guns, while Gazelle helicopters on order will be fitted with anti-tank missiles. The Puma troop-carrying helicopters could also carry cannon and machine guns.

WASHINGTON: Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday that the United States had tried in vain to get other countries to join the four-nation multinational peacekeeping force. Since the force was formed last August, 18 countries had been asked to join and 15 had declined.

Mr Weinberger did not name the countries that had rejected the request. The United States has 1,800 Marines in the existing force, Italy 2,100, troops, France 2,000, and Britain 100.

Asked about Italy's decision to reduce its force by 1,000 men, Mr Weinberger said that this would only reduce its contribution to the original figure committed last year.

Earthquake kills 10

Dakar, Senegal (AP) - At least 10 people were killed and an unknown number of others injured yesterday by a powerful earthquake in G uinea, West Africa, according to a Guinean state radio.

The earthquake registered 6.3 on the Richter scale, according to US geological scientists in Golden, Colorado. They said the earthquake occurred at 4.11am and its epicentre was 100 miles north-west of Labe.

A fanatical 'family' to rival the Mafia

By A Special Correspondent

Whenever Mr Husain Mussawi - the man widely believed to have been behind the kamikaze attacks on American and French establishments in Lebanon and Kuwait - has sensitive information to communicate to his backers in Tehran, he finds it convenient to have his cousin and boyhood companion, Mr Mohsen Mussawi, occupying the post of First Secretary at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

The two men are equally Lebanese and Iranian as a result of their upbringing and family links in the two countries. They are part of an extensive family network of Shia clerics with branches all over the Middle East, as well as nowadays among immigrants and diplomats from North Korea to New York.

In Tehran, distant relatives but fellow-believers include Mir Hossein Mussawi, the Prime Minister, and even Ayatollah Khomeini himself, though the bulk of the two men's business is done with a second-rank cleric, Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, in charge of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Liberation Movements - more informally referred to as the Department for the Export of the Revolution.

Mr Hashemi was wanted under the Shah's regime for the abduction and murder of a moderate mufti, Ayatollah Shams-Abadi, of Isfahan. Now he supervises the ideological and military training of foreign Muslim militants, or "Islamic students".

Defecting Iranian diplomats have told *The Times* that he has set up secret fundamentalist organizations in many countries, including the "Liberation Organization of Islamic Tunisia", and even the "Egyptian Unity and Holy Struggle Organization".

UN force 'Lebanon's best alternative'

From Zorana Pysarivsky, New York

Amid reports that the idea of replacing the multinational forces in Beirut with United Nations troops is being mooted in Washington, Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, again stated that UN offered the best alternative for peacekeeping in Lebanon.

In a UN press conference, he said that some of the difficulties encountered by the multinational force troops would escape the UN forces since their presence around Beirut would require a broad base of support, including approval from all the

parties in the conflict. Their international stamp would make them less likely to be identified with one side in the dispute.

The UN peacekeepers would also serve under a unified command. Their mandate to carry only light defensive arms would reduce their risk of attack, since the sanctity of their mission would be undisputable.

The Secretary-General also delivered one of his sternest lectures to the United States and the Soviet Union for their confrontational nuclear stand.

Andropov is appearing to indicate that he was still firmly in control.

He is expected to make his first public appearance in four months at next week's meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee or Supreme Soviet, the country's party parliament.

In the second attack in a week on the leadership on the republic of Moldavia, which lies between the Ukraine and Romania, have been interpreted by some diplomats as attempts by Andropov supporters to discredit allies of former President Brezhnev.

One of those, Mr Konstantin Chernenko, thought to have been Mr Andropov's rival for the party leadership, occupied senior posts in Moldavia in the 1950s and maintained close links with the area.

Although the Moldavian party was criticized for inefficiency in a government decree only seven days ago, *Pravda* made it clear that the Kremlin had expected, and not seen an immediate response. "An essential improvement in the style of working has not occurred", it said.

Another report gave warning that since there were a thing of the past, restating the tough disciplinarian line of President

Inquiry into safety at Madrid airport

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

When the so-called "sniffer planes" failed to discover a single barrel of oil, their promoters returned about half the money. The rest is still missing. What M Giscard d'Estaing has to explain is not only why he and his Prime Minister, M Raymond Barre, backed such an expensive and

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The 'sniffer planes' scandal

Giscard defends failed oil venture

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said last night that he was "scandalized" by what he saw as political exploitation of allegations that a state-owned oil company lost up to 500m francs (241m) in a venture he sanctioned while in office to discover oil reserves with airborne electronic equipment.

The former President was due to appear on television to answer journalists' questions on this issue.

At the heart of the drama - which has its comical aspects - is the Giscard Government's agreement to transfer to Switzerland in the 1970s 1bn francs (283m) to finance the new

airborne electronic equipment. When the so-called "sniffer planes" failed to discover a single barrel of oil, their promoters returned about half the money. The rest is still missing. What M Giscard d'Estaing has to explain is not only why he and his Prime Minister, M Raymond Barre, backed such an expensive and

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Le Matin, the Paris daily, quoted him yesterday as saying

he had "lacerated" the report, "even though the court is not the Ministry of Defence". This statement lends strength to reports that the promoters of the electronic system had claimed it would detect nuclear submarines and uranium, as well as oil.

Among the promoters are a Belgian named as Baron Alain de Villegas de Saint-Pierre, an Italian technician named as Signor Aldo Bonassoli, and a lawyer, M Jean Violet. They and their associates appear to have persuaded both the Swiss Bank and the French oil company, Elf Erap, of the invention's many merits.

In May, 1976, Elf Erap signed a contract with the Panamanian company Fisala for further development of the system. The following year, Elf Erap got a new chief executive, M Alain Chalandon. When told in secret of the airborne detecting system M Chalandon was sceptical. In 1980, the company cancelled the contract.

Kidnapped Soviet geologist freed

Maputo (AFP) - Eight Soviet geologists kidnapped in northern Mozambique last August have been freed, two have died in captivity and 14 are still being held by rebels of the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance according to a Soviet Embassy official here.

The official said that the eight had been freed in various operations over the past few months, and had all returned to the Soviet Union.

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Union in 'Times' dispute loses

Bonn - A labour court in Frankfurt ruled that the German print union which disrupted publication of an international edition of *The Times* during the 1979 dispute had acted illegally.

The printing company was therefore entitled to damages, it said, and a court-appointed assessor will decide the amount.

Grenada aid

Mr Giles Bullard, the British High Commissioner for Grenada, was due to sign a £750,000 British aid agreement with representatives of the island's advisory council yesterday.

The Social Democracy Party, another eminent force disqualified from the election and claiming the support of the voters of the banned Republican People's Party, has also lost no time in manifesting its defiance by reelecting Mr Erdal Inonu, the son of Ismet Pasha, the revered late soldier-statesman, as its chairman last weekend. Mr Inonu had been vetoed earlier by the military from heading the party.

Dancer's escape

Beverly Hills, California (AP) - Gene Kelly, aged 71, the actor and dancer, and his family escaped injury when their two-storey Rodeo Drive house was destroyed by fire. The house was a "total loss," a police spokesman said.

New spy chief

Canberra (AFP) - The Australian Secret Intelligence Service has named its deputy chief, Mr Stuart Fry, aged 53, to succeed Mr John Ryan as head after a bungled training exercise at a Melbourne hotel led to Mr Ryan's resignation.

Invincible 'no'

Sydney (AP) - Women anti-nuclear protesters in boats managed to paint the word "No" on the British aircraft carrier Invincible before police drove them off.

Sweeping panda

Peking (Reuter) - Qingsong, the giant panda who sweeps her own cage clean, is to become the star of a new television series in China. She will be seen juggling, cycling and carrying pails of water.

Storm breaks in Canada over Eagleburger jibe

From John Best, Ottawa

A tempest has broken over some unkind remarks about the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Pierre Trudeau, attributed to the American Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr Lawrence Eagleburger.

Mr Eagleburger, known for his plain talk and colourful turns of phrase, was quoted in yesterday's Canadian newspapers as saying that Mr Trudeau's so-called peace initiative "something akin to putting a lid on the economy" for allegedly failing to install certain modern safety equipment at the Madrid airport.

The comment was carried by

Russians reject Ottawa's claim over Korean jet

From Our Correspondent
Ottawa

The Soviet Union has refused to accept Canada's \$Can2.1m (£1.2m) claim for compensation for the families of eight Canadians killed when a Soviet fighter shot down the South Korean airliner over Sakhalin island on September 1.

Mr Alexei Rodionov, the Soviet Ambassador, was called to the External Affairs Department to be informed of the claim. He refused to accept delivery of a formal diplomatic Note.

Concern at trial delays in Italy

From John Earle
Rome

One of Italy's best known television personalities, Signor Enzo Tortora, has been in prison for six months as a result of a police swoop on 900 alleged members of the Camorra, the Naples version of the Mafia.

The accusations against him are based on statements by camorristi already in jail. Signor Tortora has repeatedly denied his innocence. After the police raid, it was found that about 100 of those arrested were cases of misnomers or mistaken identity.

Perhaps the most prominent case of preventative detention is that of the 7 April group of left-wing extremists around Signor Toni Negri, a Radical deputy who recently fled abroad. Arrested in April 1979, they were brought to trial in March 1983.

An Amnesty International report said it considered that the period for which they were held before the opening of the trial was excessive.

"The Fat One," as the Spaniards affectionately dub

him, had reached senior rank.

Mr Andropov's line has been to insist on "personal responsibility", a phrase repeated in yesterday's attack, with senior officials being criticized because of errors made at the lower levels of their departments.

Under Brezhnev, a more likely scenario was for a junior official to be made a scapegoat for a mistake higher up. An indication of how seriously the leadership regards the Moldavian party misdemeanors will come at the Central Committee meeting when the local party chief, Mr Semyon Grossu, will be called to account.

Moldavia is a small republic with a population of about four million, ethnically and culturally linked to neighbouring Romania, of which it was once a part.

The police had previous information on the planned march and are reported to have had orders to deal with it firmly. They had taken up positions in the city in the early hours of Sunday morning, and there are reports that they opened fire on the approaching demonstrators, said officially to

More than one-third of the

EEC plays a waiting game to trim its farm budget by £100m

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Measures to cut the cost of the common agricultural policy were announced yesterday by the European Commission. They are meant to save about £100m from next year's £1,000m agricultural budget.

The Commission is using its management powers to delay payment for products which it buys at the EEC's fixed intervention prices. In the case of milk, for instance, dairies will be paid a minimum of four months after delivery, rather than the present two-month gap.

This delay, it is hoped, will force the dairies to try to unload their milk to buyers prepared to pay quickly. In turn, that will put more milk on the market and force down the price, making it less profitable for farmers to produce.

Delaying tactics are also being used on other products, notably cereals, where payments will take three months instead of two. The Commission expects similar results, though they are difficult to quantify at this stage.

Part of the savings from the 1984 budget will be nominal because money will have to be paid eventually from the 1985

budget. In the same way, about £210m, frozen in payments from this year's budget, will have to be paid next year.

British farmers will emerge comparatively unscathed by the present package. A freeze on beef livestock premiums will not apply because Britain is the only country where beef producers receive their cash on the carcass, rather than on the number of head.

Sheep farmers will receive the ewe premium which will be paid next year for the last time. The Milk Marketing Board is so big that it will be able to cushion the effects of the delayed payments on dairy farmers.

The commission intends to produce another package early in the new year, which is expected to pare a further £100m from the budget. This will be done by imposing more rigorous quality standards on goods sold into intervention.

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers is being asked to return to the agricultural reform package rejected at the Athens summit when it next meets on January 9. The Commission says agreement is the minimum

required to provide essential savings.

● Ban lifted: The EEC has

decided to drop economic sanctions imposed on the Soviet Union over martial law in Poland (AP reports).

"None of the member countries wanted to renew the sanctions in 1984, so they will lapse on New Year's Day," a spokesman said. On the understanding he would not be identified. "There will be no formal announcement. The measures will just die quietly," he said.

The last meeting of the commission which could have proposed a renewal of the sanctions - a ban on certain Soviet imports - ended on Wednesday night without action.

The official said the 10 member countries decided the restrictions had served their purpose. EEC officials initially proposed a ban on Russian imports worth about £270m a year, but the list was watered down by member states to 60 products, representing about £94m a year.

India says 'give us back our Koh-i-Noor'

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

A shopping list of Indian antiques and works of art in Britain is to be drawn up by the Indian High Commission in the Adlyach in London, including the Koh-i-Noor diamond, the brightest jewel in the Queen Mother's crown.

The list will be used to bring pressure on Britain to return them to India.

The disclosure that the High Commission had been asked to draw up such an inventory - and certain guidelines had been given to them for the purpose - came during a discussion in the Indian Parliament over the return of the Koh-i-Noor diamond, now resting in the Tower of London.

Mr P. K. Thangon, the deputy minister of education, told members of the Lok Sabha there was no inventory of Indian antiques in Britain, and furthermore Britain did not accept the principle that cultural property which had been acquired freely and legitimately over the years should be returned to other countries. But he added that India would continue to pursue the matter through international forums.

The minister was under extremely strong pressure over the Koh-i-Noor, the 110-carat "Hill of Light", coded to Queen Victoria in the treaty annexing the Punjab in 1849. Mr Subramanian Swamy, a prominent member of the Janata Party, declared: It is the demand of the entire country that it should be returned to us." He was vociferously supported by other opposition

Mr Thangon had said somewhat naively that the question of a return did not arise as the Koh-i-Noor was given as a gift, by the Maharajah of Lahore, Duleep Singh. That caused a furious outburst, as well it might, since the poor old Maharajah had been obliged to make a free gift not only of the diamond but of his entire domain by British forces in arms in one of the most cynical actions of the colonisation of the sub-continent.

To calm the row, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr Balram Jakhar suggested to the minister that the question to be answered was whether the Maharajah was the proper authority to make such a gift. "Was he independent to do so?" he inquired.

South Korea will free 1,600 under amnesty

Seoul (Reuter) - South Korea yesterday announced an amnesty for more than 1,000 criminals and political dissidents, including men serving life sentences, who will either be freed from jail or have their civil rights restored.

Under a presidential clemency order effective today, 1,623 prisoners, more than 1,400 of them common criminals, will be released, while another 142 people already freed from prison will have their civil and political rights restored.

Those benefiting from the amnesty include General Chung Seung Hwa, the former Army chief of staff and martial law commander, released in 1980. He was among several senior military officers arrested in 1979 by President Chun Doo Hwan, then an army major-general, soon after the assassination of President Park Chung Hee.

In an investigation headed by Major-General Chun, General Chung was convicted of involvement in President Park's assassination by his own security chief.

Britons plead for lives of Chirwas

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Shirley Williams, the president of the SDP, and Lord Elwyn-Jones, a former Lord Chancellor made personal appeals yesterday for the life of Mr Orton Chirwa, the Opposition leader in Malawi, and his wife, Vera, who are facing the death sentence for treason.

Together with Miss Janet Banda, who will have the last word over the Chirwas' fate.

Mr Chirwa, a veteran Malawi politician and former Minister of Justice, was convicted and sentenced to death along with his former lawyer wife last May. But they were given leave to appeal, and this appeal hearing ended last month.

Amnesty and their other

friends and supporters in

London fear that, although no

verdict has yet been declared, it

could be announced over the

Christmas holiday, making it

difficult to launch any appeals if

the decision goes against the

Chirwas. Only President Banda

would then be able to grant a

reprieve.

Leaders of the Church of

Scotland are also preparing to

intercede with Dr Banda,

himself an elder of the church.

Dr Andrew Doig, a former

Moderator, flew to Malawi to

appeal on behalf of the Chirwas

this year.

Mrs Williams is a long-stand-

ing friend of Mrs Chirwa, while

Mr Chirwa himself was once a

junior counsel with Lord

Elwyn-Jones. Both were said to

feel very strongly on the matter

according to Amnesty sources.

A Foreign Office spokesman

said they were keeping in close

touch with the situation.

Cruise ban refused in Germany

Karlsruhe (Reuter) - West Germany's Federal Constitutional Court yesterday rejected petitions seeking a legal ban on the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

The court ruled that deployment did not violate the country's constitution and it was not the court's task to judge political decisions. Germany is bound by a treaty not to manufacture or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

The first of 108 Pershings began arriving a month ago, and a Defence Ministry spokesman said they will be operational by the end of the year.

West Germany is also due to receive 96 of the 464 cruise missiles to be deployed in five West European countries, after the Soviet Union's refusal to dismantle its SS20 rockets.

A wave of petitions from various factions in the country's big anti-nuclear movement, had been filed with the court.

Uganda lets Rwandans go home

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi

The Ugandan Government has ordered local officials in Rakai district, west of Lake Victoria, to allow several thousand ethnic Rwandans to return to their homes in the area. The Rwandans were

driven out after clashes with tribes in the area earlier this month.

Ugandan officials say no orders were given for the Rwandans, many of whom have lived in Uganda for generations, to be uprooted - although nearly 100,000 other Rwandans who had been living in areas further west were ordered into refugee camps more than a year ago.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees asked the Ugandan Government for information on the situation in Rakai, and was told that it arose from local tribal conflicts. Efforts are now being made to return the estimated 6,000 Rwandans to their former home in Rakai district.

Reports from the area say members of other tribes who looted the Rwandans' homes and cattle herds are now abandoning their loot as police try to track them down.

● Boom in Soviet car industry -

and any car will do

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The seven millionth Zhiguli rolled off the assembly line not long ago and the Soviet car industry is generating. Soviet officials say that the Zhiguli, modelled on the Italian Fiat, has the best qualities of a family car, namely "comfort, reliability and efficiency".

Most Russians would say that while Fiat first set up its gigantic new plant at Togliatti on the Volga in 1970, Zhigulis have become increasingly uncomfortable, unreliable and inefficient since the Italians left the south west city of Kungu, and four convicted of sedition.

The main opposition Democratic Korea Party, which has demanded the lifting of all political restrictions in the country, called the amnesty "a most welcome move".

The amnesty follows a government decision, announced on Wednesday, to allow 1,363 students expelled for anti-government demonstrations to return to their universities. Earlier this month the government also said it would permit reinstatement from next year of 86 professors removed from their posts in 1980 for anti-government activities.

Season of ill will and ingenuity: From Warsaw to Wall Street

Christmas in America

Jingle bells and mounds of dollars

A man's fondness for litigation, I once read, may be taken as evidence that he is crackers. Welcome to America, where litigation, encouraged by a glut of lawyers, is a national pastime, and the courts echo to plaintifffs and the slap of writs.

The season of goodwill brings its own crop of bitter legal battles. Consider, for example, the fierce argument rending the town of Pawtucket, which stands on the Seekonk river, in Rhode Island. The Supreme Court itself is sitting in judgment on this matter.

The trouble has been ignited by the local council's nativity tableau which has figures of Joseph, Mary, the swaddled Christ, a dancing elephant in a short skirt, a chipmunk and Santa on a snowmobile. (It is, after all, an American nativity scene).

The American Civil Liberties Union pursued its lips at this and sought a court order preventing the council paying for the tableau with public money. It cites the constitutional insistence on separation of church and state and contends that the council's manger scene is an illegal endorsement of religion.

The God-fearing Reagan

Administration has sided with the outraged council, but the

National Council of Churches has not. Indeed, some clergymen have signed a statement saying you can have Santa on the rates, but not Jesus. A cleric who expressed this view on television was telephoned by a man who said "If you spoil my kid's Christmas I'll blow your head off."

Another Christmas lawsuit, in New Orleans, concerns Mr Al Copeland, owner of Popeye's, a fried chicken chain.

The poignant part of the story is that he was once a poor boy who decided that when he grew up and became rich he would do as the local wealthy man did and decorate his mansion lavishly at Christmas.

He prospered on fried chicken and today his mansion has 250,000 fairy lights, an 18ft snowman and piped carols. The neighbours, however, do not like the great crowds which flock to see this spectacle and are asking a court to order lights out. Mr Copeland says his neighbours are grinchies, American for grouchies.

Apart from suing each other, Americans are spending money like drunkards sailors. It is evidently a record Christmas, and delirious shopkeepers are being dug out from mounds of dollars. This is commerce rampant, in the land of abundance.

Santas are standing outside the great stores ringing handbells, calling the faithful to spend. The mamonists of Wall Street are paying each other fat bonuses (top executives are getting up to 25 per cent of their annual salaries) and hurrying to Tiffany's, a surprisingly dull, brown store, where the most expensive stocking filler is a necklace costing £1.4m - though most people settle for the £12 key ring.

Almost next door, on New York's Fifth Avenue, stands the new Trump Tower, a pillar of preposterous decadence and opulence. The doormen are got up in the red tunics and

Trevor Fishlock

Court rules angels must have wings

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A Christmas tree angel is only a genuine member of the heavenly host if it has wings, suitable white robes and is opening its mouth to sing Hallelujah, a Hamburg court has ruled.

This celestial judgment was handed down after an unseasonable dispute between the city's customs authorities and an importer of china figurines aspiring to the rank of angels.

According to the Office of the City Treasurer, the importer maintained that his beauteous wares, each shaped to hold a candle were Christmas tree decorations, and as such exempt from duty Hamburg's customs inspectors thought

otherwise, however, finding the

angel wings.

The court agreed with the customs men, basing its judgment primarily on the fact that the angels offered for consideration had no wings.

Wings, it opined, "Are in Western culture the quintessential distinguishing characteristic of angels". To show that this important legal precedent is thoroughly grounded, it added: "Although angels were represented as wingless in prechristian times, since the fourth century the concept of an angel has always been bound to the representation of wings."

US-born bishop murdered in Nicaragua

Mangua (Reuter AFP) - Rebels shot dead an American-born bishop after kidnapping him near Nicaragua's northern border with Honduras, the Government announced yesterday.

An official radio announcement said Bishop Salvador Schlaefler, aged 65, was killed by right-wing rebels when "putting up resistance".

Mr Schlaefler, the Bishop of Bluefield, on the Atlantic coast, was seized with an American priest, Wendelin Schaefer, and two Miskito Indian churchmen earlier this week.

● ROME: The Pope said yesterday that if Bishop Schlaefler had been murdered, "it would be very sad news which covers the pre-Christmas time with sadness".



Not the Harrods store! Shoppers bargain hunting in Buenos Aires at Harrods, a shop unconnected with the London store of the same name.

● Santa dead drunk in the snow

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Christmas in Poland, or at least its secular celebration, has traditionally fallen into two distinct phases. The first is a concentrated week of commercial ill-will during which sales staff scale new unimaginable heights of rudeness and shopkeepers try their best if necessary to hire babies or gangs of pensioners, to edge their way to the head of the queues.

The second phase is a period of abnormally high alcohol consumption. Drunken Father Christmases lurch through the streets, men lie motionless in the snow, and vodka flows like well, vodka.

This year Christmas, Phase Two will be different in a protest against the Government, thousands of Poles are renouncing vodka in solemn oaths sworn in church. A number of Warsaw churches, Poles, mainly intellectuals and students but also workers, have been

THE ARTS

Cinema

Special effects of Christmas

Brainstorm (15)
EmpireKrull (PG)
Odeon Leicester SquareFamily Business
ICA

It is only the reminiscent spirit of Christmas Past that forces the confession out of me: this week is the exact fiftieth anniversary of my first film. I hasten to add (since ordinarily I would never admit to much over forty) that I was a very tiny creature indeed. Only the suitability of the film, which was Paramount's *Alice in Wonderland*, and the fact that as a baby in arms I got in free (money was tight in the Depression years) could explain that first cinema outing. Even so I remember the circumstances clearly. It was a matinée, but it was already dark and snowing hard when I was carried home. I was wearing brown corduroy leggings of the kind in which they then cuddled children; and while these were being peeled off I was shown the book and the Tenniel illustrations, and marvelled how these people had arrived home before me.

From that moment I was hooked, utterly, on the cinema and insisted on being taken again and again, however unsuitable the film. They cannot have paid much heed to the British Board of Film Censors at the Plaza and the Corn Exchange in Lincoln, because I remember being scared by *H*-certificate films. More agreeably, the reprobate W. C. Fields, who was Humpty Dumpty in that *Alice*, became a passion. I saw every film he played in, could not distinguish him from my flesh-and-blood uncles, and worship him to this day. From that moment, at Christmas 1933, my fate and future were determined.

Is such precocious formation good,

bad or inevitable? The moral of the story is not clear. One purpose of telling it, though, apart from indulgent reminiscence, is that it shows how, at one time, the cinema industry really took note of Christmas, and made and showed films that would grab family audiences at a time when competing distractions, not to speak of seasonal colds, would otherwise have decimated attendances. They recognized that in the Christmas holidays children can twist parents round their little fingers. All the cinemas had to do was to pull in the children: the families would follow. This seasonal principal went back at least as far as 1899 when Georges Méliès's tableau film *Cinderella* played all the music halls refined enough for children to be taken to by the military authorities.

The film struck the worst of possible luck. Natalie Wood, who plays the estranged wife of the male scientist (Christopher Walken), died before her part was finished; and, despite cunning patching and restructuring, it leaves this central relationship rather sketchy. A bigger drawback, even so, is that the imaginative conception of the script (by Robert Stetzel and Philip Frank Messina, from a story by Bruce Joel Rubin) falls far short of the technology of the effects in sophistication.

Those days are gone. The competition of television is too great and no one bothers any more. There is nothing at all seasonal about the current releases: *Never Say Never Again*, *Jaws 3D* and *Trading Places*, with *Flying Sex*, *Private French Lessons* and *Let's Make a Dirty Movie* for more *recherché* adult tastes. The single exception is Disney's Christmas double bill of *The Jungle Book* and *Mickey's Christmas Carol*. Just to prove that there can still be life in old market formulas, it is doing very nicely, thank you.

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Douglas Trumbull directing Natalie Wood in her last film, *Brainstorm*

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SPECTRUM

Violent death and torture are shattering the peace of rural Namibia as South African units battle to hold the line against guerrillas. Michael Hornsby visits the bush where the seeds of civil war are being sown each day

A land in the shadow of terror

Mpungu
The far north-eastern Kavango area of Namibia, only a few miles from the Angolan border, is normally a sleepy place: a Lutheran mission station with a small church and clinic and a scattering of tribal *kaals*, the traditional stockaded enclosures of thatched huts fashioned from stakes driven into the ground, near which a few scrawny cattle seek what nourishment they can from the dusty soil. It is typical of the peasant-farmer settlements in the border region along the Okovango river.

On the day earlier this month that I and another journalist visited Mpungu, however, it was bustling with unwanted and unwelcome activity. The day before a known informer used by the South African security forces had been shot dead in broad daylight by an unidentified assailant who then ran off. The killing was presumed to be the work of Swapo, the South West Africa People's Organization, which has been fighting a bush war for the independence of Namibia, as South West Africa is now known internationally, for the last 17 years.

The pastor, Nathaniel Shilongo, had immediately reported the incident to the nearby army base at Npara. It was clear, however, that he was still regarded with intense suspicion by the white South African soldiers and camouflaged black members of a special anti-guerrilla unit known as Koevoet who had descended on Mpungu just before us in two of the wedge-shaped, mine-proof personnel carriers which are the main conveyance of the security forces.

Founded by Finnish missionaries in the last century, the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambo-Kavango Church, ELOC for short, now has an almost entirely indigenous black clergy, unlike the Roman Catholic church which is still largely run by white missionaries from Germany. It is the biggest church in Namibia and the South African security police tend to regard it as the ecclesiastical arm of Swapo, an organization that paradoxically also features in government propaganda as the godless agent of international communism.

Nervously mopping his sweat-beaded brow, Pastor Shilongo recited yet again his version of the shooting incident for his unwanted visitors. He

had good reason to be worried. Koevoet — the name is Afrikaans for "crowbar" — operates as a special wing of the South African police, and has earned a notorious reputation for brutality.

Its twin functions are "interrogation" and "elimination" of Swapo agents and guerrillas, a brief which its members interpret liberally. Supposedly, like other elements of the security forces, it exists to protect Namibia's civilian population against the terrorists, or "terrs", as the South African authorities always refer to Swapo. But most villagers will tell you that they feel far more threatened by the security forces than by the terrs.

'We are tired of trouble, we just want independence'

In Rundu, about 150 miles east of Mpungu, another Lutheran pastor, Johannes Sindano, who was detained for three weeks earlier this year under draconian security laws modelled on those in force in South Africa proper, told us: "People are very, very frightened of Koevoet. They are more frightened of Koevoet than of Swapo because they see more of them."

Beatings and harassment are said to be routinely used against anyone suspected of withholding information about Swapo. Koevoet, whose membership is 90 per cent black, and the security police have the worst reputation, but young black Namibians recruited into the South West Africa Territorial Force (SWATF), which is now estimated to account for about 14,000 of the 50,000 men (including logistical back-up) which South Africa has in the territory, are also accused of bullying, intimidation and worse. Like Koevoet, the SWATF operates under white leadership.

Ndara Kapitango, a 63-year-old refugee from Angola, claims that some time last June two drunken bushmen soldiers of the SWATF came to his *kaal* near Mpungu, beat him up and held him over the fire on which he had been preparing his supper. He lost consciousness and was left lying at the edge of the fire. His right arm had to be amputated and he is still in the

Mpungu clinic recuperating from appalling burns. Army sources say two soldiers have been "disciplined" for the incident.

"I fear a lot of people will be beaten up in the next few days (because of the shooting of the police informer)," Wilhelm Mpasi Setenu, the local headman, told us in his *kaal* on a low hill overlooking the Mpungu mission. "They started beating people up yesterday. We don't mind being questioned, but they beat us when we do not give the answers they want."

The white-haired old man, who remembers working as a kitchen boy for a German officer before the First World War when Namibia was still a German colony, then recalled, through an interpreter, a visit to his *kaal* last June by a group of white and black soldiers who accused him of helping Swapo. "They took my grandson outside, and fired a shot. We thought he was dead, then they came back and said 'that child is dead, now we are going to shoot you', and they pushed the barrel of the gun against my forehead."

The old headman insisted that he had never had any contacts with Swapo. "People are confused. If you are on the side of the government, Swapo may kill you. If you are on the side of Swapo, the government beats you up and causes you trouble. So people don't know who to support. We are tired, we just want independence, because then the Boers will leave, and there will be peace."

That is a widely expressed sentiment. The guerrillas do, undoubtedly, have considerable support in Kavango, even though their main stronghold is in Ovamboland to the west. But many people are simply tired of the endless harassment, violence and fear.

The insurgents exercise their own forms of pressure. Villagers may be forced to supply food to give medical aid. Headmen who cooperate with the security forces are sometimes murdered. Last July Swapo guerrillas in eastern Kavango abducted two black members of Koevoet by night from their family *kaal*, where they were on leave. They bound their hands behind their backs, led them into the bush and executed them.

The killing unleashed a wave of retaliatory "interrogation" by the security forces, several of whom later claimed to have been beaten and given electric shocks while in detention.

The South African army is now chiefly occupied with maintaining control over a wide swathe of southern Angola. Military spokesmen coyly admit that the army patrols the area regularly and that units often spend weeks at a time inside Angolan territory. The aim is communication between Swapo's Angolan-based military command and its guerrillas operating inside Namibia to the south.

The task of hunting down the guerrillas has been increasingly "Namibianized" by turning it over to Koevoet, which, although it is not thought to have more than 1,200 men, is currently credited with more than 80 per cent of Swapo "kills". The unit's existence complicates the search for an independence settlement.

Formed about four years ago, Koevoet operates in small groups under the command of white South African police officers. Its headquarters are in Oshakati in Ovamboland, and it is jointly controlled by Brigadier Hans Dreyer, a former chief of security police in Natal and police headquarters in Pretoria. Koevoet's existence has only recently been admitted, and much of what it does is still shrouded in secrecy.

A spotlight was turned on the unit earlier this year, however, when an inquest found that Jona Hamukwaya, a primary school teacher, and Kaduma Katanga, a peasant-farmer, from the same village in Western Kavango, had been beaten to death within hours of being detained by Koevoet constables who claimed that "all teachers are Swapos". All that has happened so far is that two Koevoet men have been fined small sums of money for acting "overenthusiastically".

Plague spreads as the social fabric is torn apart

In a more recent case, Jonas Paulus, another Koevoet member, was sentenced to death for murdering a village headman in Ovamboland last January. During his trial, Paulus told the court that when guerrillas were suspected of being in an area, a Koevoet unit would

go from *Kraal* to *Kraal* interrogating their inhabitants. "If they won't give us information, then one of our group assaults them, slaps them with his open hand, or beats them with a rifle butt".

Paulus also confirmed that Koevoet constables are paid about 350 rands a month (about £210), a salary which can be matched hardly anywhere else in the declining local economy. They also get bonuses, or "head money", depending on how many guerrillas their section kills in a month.

He also disclosed that Koevoet members are often issued with Soviet-made AK 47 rifles, the same weapon as used by Swapo. He himself was masquerading as a Swapo guerrilla when he committed the murder for which he was sentenced. This has lent credence to widespread allegations that Koevoet members sometimes dress up as Swapo guerrillas. If villagers offer food and shelter, they are allegedly beaten up or worse.

It is rare, however, for Koevoet members to be brought to book. Under the Defence Act, they are protected against prosecution if they can show they have acted "in good faith" in counterinsurgency operations.

There is also a tendency to condone the Koevoet's rough methods on the grounds that, as one magistrate put it, "terrorists are not handed to you on a platter".

The war is being contained in the sense that its cost is probably almost indefinitely sustainable by the South African exchequer, and in the sense that it is an obscure and remote conflict which seldom impinges on the consciousness of an outside world with much else to worry about.

The long-term cost to Namibia's social fabric, as the diplomats and politicians argue interminably over the territory's future, is bound to be severe. Thousands of civilians have been driven from their homes by the war in Ovamboland, and civilian health services have largely collapsed. There has been a rapid spread of bubonic plague over the past year. Now there is the fear that South Africa could be sowing the seeds for a civil war as they draw more and more local people into the fight against Swapo.

The chief glory of the Christmas period for me is the season of films on BBC starring the Marx Brothers, Judy Garland, Michael Caine and Cary Grant. None of the films with this all-star cast has ever been seen before, and me and my video recorder are going to be watching them all, and to hell with carol singers.

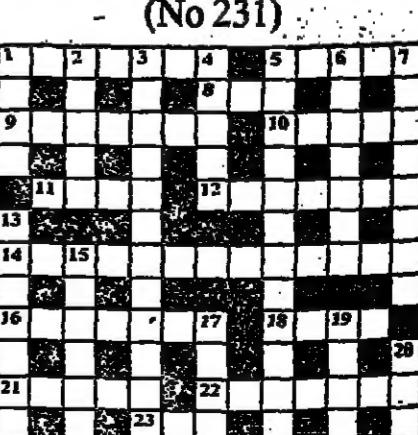
First off is *Bringing up Alie*, a sparkling comedy in which Cary Grant and Judy Garland find the eight-year-old Michael Caine on their doorstep, with a note saying: "Please see this boy gets a good education or failing that, enough to eat, yours, Groucho". Michael Caine has such a good time being brought up that next week they find Groucho, Harpo and Chico in a basket on the doorstep. Most of the plot thereafter centres on whether Cary Grant or Michael Caine has the fake British accent.

Next is *Meet Me in Casablanca*, in which Judy Garland plays an itinerant singer trying to get to St Louis, but who has had the misfortune to book her passage with the Rufus T. Flysway agency and ends up in Casablanca working as a chambermaid in the Imperial Hotel (proprietor: the Quasimodo brothers). Harpo turns in a beautiful cameo part as the brother with the hump, which he keeps detaching and putting on other people. Anyway, Cary Grant is the world-weary millionaire who books in at the Imperial and falls in love with Judy, who unfortunately is in love with Caine, the British spy. This film contains the famous scene where Chico is playing the piano in a club, and Groucho bursts in shouting "Don't play it again, Sam!" and shoots his brother, though not dead.

The six of them only made one thriller, *The Watercress File*, which stars Michael Caine as the food correspondent who has the secret of a foolproof mayonnaise, which the Russians would like to get hold of. Judy Garland and Cary Grant are the American couple who unwittingly get it instead and are pursued by the Russians, who want to kill them and Harpo, who wants to stop Judy Garland singing. Groucho persuades Michael Caine that he must kill Cary Grant to get it back, to which he replies "But I've never shot a man before," and Groucho says: "You can't go around shooting women all your life". They compromise: Groucho agrees to shoot Judy and Caine agrees to shoot Harpo, who is limbering up for a harp solo. The end is somewhat confused, but it involves Cary Grant attempting to sing and getting mayonnaise all over his face. Perhaps the least successful of the films they made is *The Marx Brothers go to Philadelphia*, in which Cary Grant and Michael Caine play two missing Marx Brothers, Blotto and Hippo. All five of them fall in love with Judy Garland, but she prefers to run off with James Stewart, who was on loan from MGM at the time. There is a baffling scene in which Harpo tries to enter a camel for the Kentucky Derby, but this is now thought to be a left-over sequence from *Meet Me in Casablanca*.

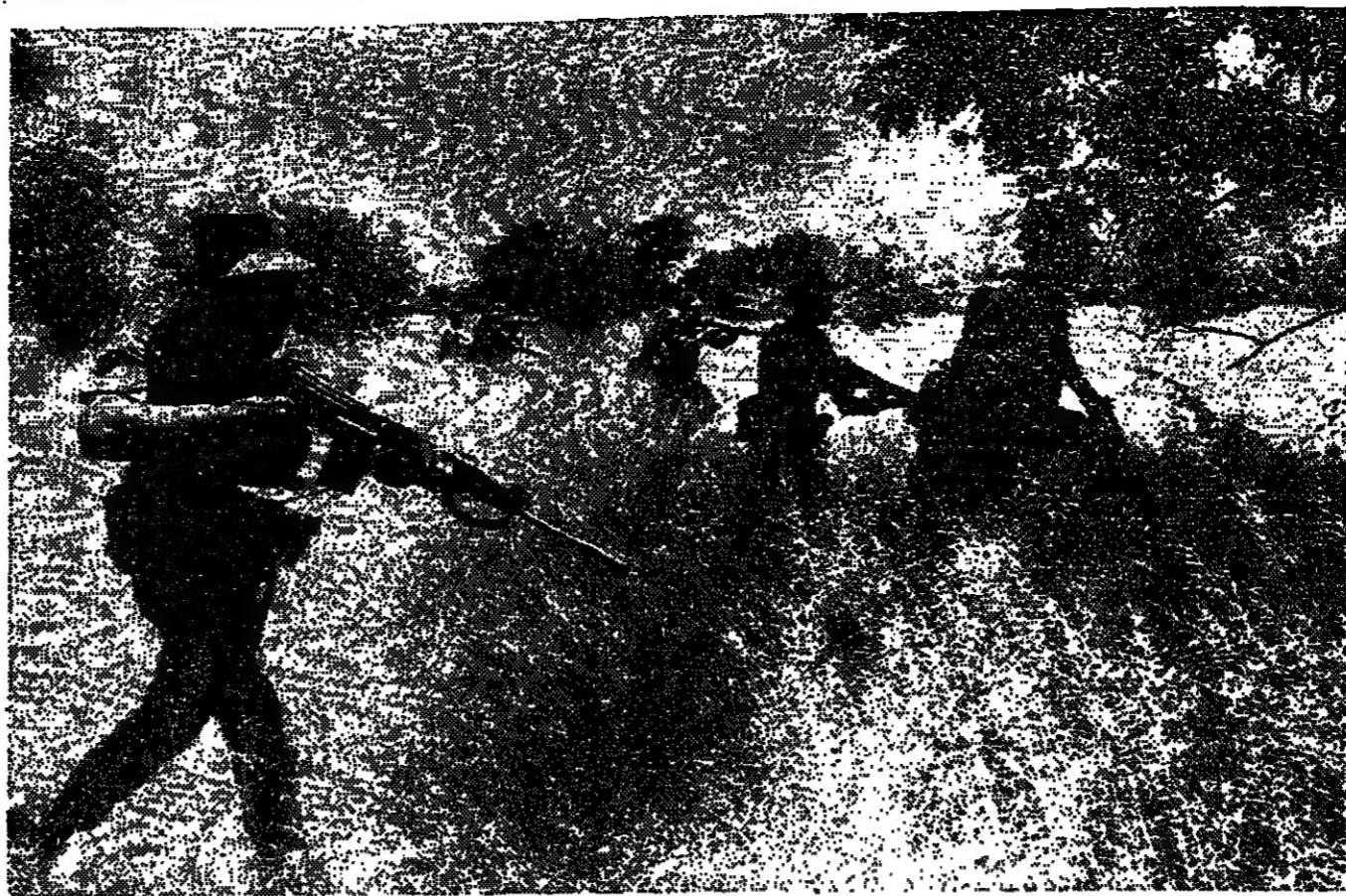
The greatest of all their films, on Boxing Day, is of course *The Idiot of Oz*, in which Groucho plays the title role. Judy Garland plays herself and Chico plays a piano in mid-air dangling from a balloon. Cary Grant for some reason speaks in an Australian accent throughout; it is now thought that he was misled by the title into thinking that the film was set in Australia. Harpo is superb as the Tin Man; every time he wants a meal, he simply wields a tin-opener on himself and produces a steaming casserole. The opening scene, where everyone is picked up by a catastrophic hurricane in Kansas and transported thousands of miles, has never been bettered, certainly not in the recent remake *The Day After*. I shall always treasure the great moments from this film: Groucho picking up a brick from the Yellow Road and saying, "I know this road when it was a public lavatory in Philadelphia"; Cary Grant, as the lion, being tickled to death by Michael Caine; Harpo's Tin Man playing an all-aluminium harp — but why go on? It will all be happening over Christmas and old films, surely, are what Christmas is all about.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 231)



ACROSS

1 Sketch (7) 1 Medical measure (4) 2 Assign (5) 3 Educational (3) 4 Grip firmly (5) 5 No prosecution (5,8) 6 Foggy? (7) 7 Reckless sister (8) 8 Animated (8) 9 Adolescent girl (7) 10 Throng (5) 11 In reserve (5) 12 Do business (4) 13 Financial support (3) 14 Sketch (7) 15 Nominate (5) 16 17th Greek letter (3) 17 Oder region (7) 18 Exchange (4) 19 Projecting wood pieces (5) 20 Have need of (7) 21 Sketch (7) 22 Surprise hit marks the fulfilment of a 20-year-old ambition. He first rose to the challenge of *Vexations* in 1963 when the American composer John Cage hired a team of pianists to play the piece. 23 Four years later, De Leeuw, a 45-year-old teacher at the Royal Conservatorium in The Hague, plays the 180 notes of *Vexations* woodlessly, without variation, mistakes, or any change in volume. Unfortunately, no one told the caretaker of the historic nature of the recital and the pianist and his handful of listeners were ejected from the premises at 1am, having heard Satie's theme only 117 times. 24 No one in the record industry, however, can explain the sudden popularity of Satie's music, although some executives have been heard muttering that an awful lot of people are buying *Christmas best-seller* this year for relatives they dislike intensely. 25 Surface growing (7) **SOLUTION TO NO 230** ACROSS: 1 Crisis 5 Scheme 8 Tie 9 Impede 10 Elvira 11 Volt 12 Stampede 14 Eminence 15 Sturk 17 Surk 19 Exam 21 Adtors 23 Nougat 24 Art 25 Tack 26 Edie DOWN: 2 Romeo 3 Sweetener 4 Steeped 5 Scrutinize 6 Her 7 Mikados 13 Perpetual 14 Mandor 16 Essence 18 Essay 20 Awaft 22 Run



Namibia patrol. "Most villagers say they feel more threatened by the security forces than by guerrillas"

Christmas Eve

SPECIAL 36 PAGE ISSUE



● Give us a clue:
THE PRIZE JUMBO
CROSSWORD
● Christmas past: A search for
Santa in the Deep South
— a seasonal story
by Truman Capote
● Christmas presents:
Match the gifts to the
personalities and win a prize

PLUS All the news from home and abroad ● Travel — dog-sledding in Greenland ● Drink — mulls and punches for Christmas Day ● Bridge ● Chess ● Collecting — the appeal of Christmas cribs ● selected guide to events in the arts

● CHRISTMAS
TELEVISION AND RADIO
— a four-page pullout guide
● Remember this?
Quiz of the year 1983
● Game for a laugh: Victorian
parlour games for the family
● Sport: Full preview of
Boxing Day's racing, football
and rugby



Erik Satie and Reinbert de Leeuw: a Christmas best-seller

Almost 60 years after his death, Erik Satie, unquestionably the most eccentric of classical composers, has shocked the bourgeoisie once again.

A quirky bachelor of Franco-Scottish parentage, Satie wrote translucent piano music that sheltered under such absurdly irrelevant names as "bureaucratic sonatine", "desiccated embryos", "automatic descriptions", "intimate and secret musics" and "The I-want-you waltz". He did give one literal title, however, to a 90-second motif that he called *Vexations* and he ordered it to be played 840 times without a break.

This instruction was laughed off at the time as yet another of Satie's oddities, as implausible as his concept of "furniture music", sounds that would serve the same function as wallpaper. But when the age of muzak dawned many began to take Satie's philosophies very seriously indeed. Now, a noiseur of tranquility, the

Norman Lebrecht

مكتبة من الأصل

FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING



Elizabeth Taylor with Richard Burton, earlier this year
Beating the drug habit

Speculation is running on three fronts about why Liz Taylor has been admitted to a clinic to recover from the effects of long-term drug taking.

The least likely culprit is slimming tablets. These used to contain amphetamines, because of their appetite-suppressing qualities, but they have been known to be dangerous for some years and are no longer used widely to help people to lose weight.

The second possibility is that she has become dependent on pain killers taken to ease arthritis.

The third suggestion is that Miss Taylor may have become addicted to tranquillisers, which is an internationally recognized phenomenon.

Joan Jerome, organizer of Traxx, a self-help group to support people trying to reduce their intake of tranquillisers says that 1,200 people have been in contact with Traxx since it was launched a year ago. "At a rough guess 30 to 40 per cent of the people I have spoken to are men", she says, refuting the idea that this type of addiction is entirely a problem for women.

Joan Jerome has a DHSS grant for running the group in Brent and Harrow, though she has a network of contacts all over the country setting up affiliated self-help groups.

There is no fee for joining Traxx, although participants are asked for a donation. Most people make initial contact by phone. "We send out a consent form and a chart for reducing the drugs taken, and then provide support", says the organizer.

Groups meet once a week to share problems and provide mutual support though it may take many months for a person to readjust to life without the support of drugs.

Anyone who is interested in joining Traxx and lives in the Brent and Harrow area can phone 01-427 2065.

Getting the needle

News that David Griffiths was treated by acupuncture to relieve severe knee pain have given just as much coverage last week as his triumph in finishing the 2,330 mile marathon from Peking to Hongkong to raise money for disabled athletes.

Few people now doubt the value of acupuncture in relieving chronic pain but western doctors, brought up to believe in the causality of science, must always ask why?

Studies have already implicated one major biochemical in relieving pain after acupuncture - beta-endorphin - which is released in the brain and circulates round the nervous system. And there are at least ten other "opioid peptides" with similar biochemical structure to endorphin which may also be involved.

But scientists are by no means unanimous in support of the beta-endorphin theory, though most agree that the "opioid peptides" must play some part. A paper published in the Lancet last week suggested that yet another substance - met-enkephalin - might also be important.

Successful acupuncture treatment given by doctors in this country tends to be given locally, with needles inserted where the pain is more intense. This makes sense. But why, as practised in the Far East, putting a needle in the left toe produces a sensation in an entirely different part of the body still remains a mystery.

Short-sighted swot



Swots, as every schoolboy knows, always wear glasses. And, although many people believe the link between intelligence and short-sightedness is no more than an old wives' tale, there is plenty of statistical evidence supporting the idea.

But nobody knows why the link exists: it may be genetic or it may be environmental.

Protagonists for an environmental link argue that short-sighted children probably find games a bit of a struggle so they naturally prefer to read or entertain themselves with games they can see - which all tend to be a bit cerebral.

The relevance of these different ideas is that it is now possible to correct short-sightedness surgically. The technique was developed in the 1950s, but was not used much until there were unsubstantiated reports that the Russians were having high success rates.

Only in the last couple of years has more solid evidence emerged from the United States that some short-sight can be corrected by surgery. The main drawback is that permanent damage to the eye surface may occur inadvertently during the operation.

Barrier methods



Striking an acceptable balance between effectiveness and convenience is the hallmark of a good contraceptive. For women the Pill has always won the day (easy to use and very effective) and streets ahead of a diaphragm (laborious to insert) and an intrauterine device (probably an abortifacient).

But recent Lancet reports linking long-term Pill use with cancer of the breast and cervix have frightened the most down-to-earth women.

Next year will see the launch of a new generation of barrier contraceptives. The first, probably on the market in mid-summer through clinics and chemists, is the disposable contraceptive sponge.

The initial clinical trial has been completed at the Margaret Pyke Centre in central London and compares the relative effectiveness of the sponge and diaphragm. Walli Bounds, research coordinator at the centre, says her results are being processed at the moment and will be available early in the new year.

But this trial should be little more than a formality. The sponge, which is soaked in spermicide, is much simpler to insert than a diaphragm, has already been given UK licence and previous trials suggest it is just as safe as a diaphragm if used carefully.

Looking further ahead, Mrs Bounds is waiting for the go-ahead to start a trial on the Contracepac - a US invention. The Contracepac, a permanent diaphragm, is left covering the cervix for between six months and a year. It is designed with a valve mechanism so that excretions can flow out, but sperm is stopped from entering the womb.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

In last Friday's Medical Briefing, it should have been made clear that all frozen poultry should be the roughly unfrozen before cooking.

Britain has less faith in psy-

Victims of violence: the double trauma

Those who survive violence often have long-term psychological scars. It is a paradox that some of these scars are caused by the way victims are treated after the event and they have been criticised particularly for their attitude towards women who have been raped. Dr Joanna Shapland of the Oxford Centre for Criminological Research told this week's London conference of the British Psychological Society that while many forces have learned to handle rape victims more sensitively, most victims soon develop a very jaundiced view of the police.

Funded by the Home Office, Dr Shapland studied 278 victims in Coventry and Northampton. Most had been physically, not sexually, assaulted, and often maimed badly.

Their initial impressions of the police were good: 75 per cent praised the "first contact"; officers were not just efficient but, to use that much overused word, caring. One woman who had been sexually abused expected scepticism, or worse, because of recent publicity. She was surprised by "how kind and respectful they were." The problem was how to translate this initial impression into long term.

But Dr Shapland had to report that things soon got worse. She talked to victims about three weeks after the assault, and then contacted

them for up to 18 months afterwards. Even three weeks on, satisfaction with the police had

fallen to 10 per cent.

Fourteen per cent of victims went so far as to say that if they were assaulted again they would not bother reporting it. Using classic rating scales, Dr Shapland found that victims soon came to rate the police as being significantly "less efficient, more offensive, less fair, more bureaucratic, more crooked, and less helpful." The change was dramatic.

"It's not often that psychology throws up such a common thread," admitted Dr Shapland. "I think we're looking at a real phenomenon."

And, if the Dutch smothered their victims with patronising care, Shapland found that the people in her sample felt, after a few weeks, "just not valued." Shapland does not want to turn the police into therapists in uniform but feels there is a serious mismatch between what the police think is good practice and what victims feel they need. The police wanted to catch the criminal and, if they could not do that, to be "technically efficient" which often meant "filling in the right forms at the right time. But surprisingly

victims did not judge the police by whether they catch the villains or not. Arrests matter less than attention.

The psychology of this is not so odd even though it may offend those who claim that victims need retribution and revenge. To be assaulted is bad not just for a person's health but for their self esteem. They feel damaged. More than ever, therefore, they need to be well treated. Being well treated does not mean being fussed over by sergeant social workers but it should mean being told what is going on at the right time; when a case may come up; if an arrest had been made - and being given all that information with respect. To be denied

that reinforces the initial damage.

The problem is that these human needs clash with what the police see as their main role. To be caring when someone is injured is not hard but to continue that care, three weeks later, when they are back home and fit is hardly the role of the great detective or brave constable.

Yet Dr Shapland's survey suggests that the victims want and need policing that is humanly sensitive rather than more detective wizardry. It's not a finding to ignore.

David Cohen

TALKBACK

From Dr Penelope Leach, The Maze House, Rockingham, Berkeley, Gloucestershire

As a reviewer, Rachel Cullen ("Bringing up baby", December 14) is entitled to express her opinions, and I must therefore ignore charges of authoritarianism, unrecognizable descriptions of "the Penelope Leach approach" and suggestions that I spend my time having the vapours over other women earning a living instead of earning my own.

I cannot, however, ignore Cullen's statement that I am "not above careful editing of the research evidence" to back up my views. The 200 references cited in my book *Babyhood* strike her as showing off, in fact

An insult to professional integrity

Male expectations

From George W. Burdett, 85 Henley Road, Leicester

Like Doreen Turnbull (First Person, December 12), I sympathize with the large numbers of women whose husbands have died. I think that equal attention should be given to the question, "Why do men have a life expectancy of seven years less than women?" (One man in five will suffer a heart attack before age 65).

The existing state pension scheme is weighted against men. Men pay in 80 per cent of the funds and receive 40 per cent in benefits. Earlier retirement (voluntary) for men is clearly desirable and the Government should turn its attention to this matter without delay.

On balance

From Sue Lewis, 18 Knoll Court, Farnham Road, London

I was interested to read Caroline Harper's "My lesbian daughter" (December 16) and appreciated the frankness with which she shared her personal experience with the wider public, so that all of us might learn from it.

Her daughter had apparently been forward in her relationships with boyfriends during her teens and it occurred to me that she might then have missed out on the close friendships with other girls which most of us enjoyed in early adolescence, only to discover later, when

menfriends, anxious mother under this age how good it was to share ideas and experiences with her own

Educated in schools which have emphasized desegregation and at which friendships with the opposite sex have equal status at quite a young age, I wonder how many people have suffered a similar fate and subsequently felt the need to revert to their own sex to redress the balance?

The existing state pension scheme is weighted against men. Men pay in 80 per cent of the funds and receive 40 per cent in benefits. Earlier retirement (voluntary) for men is clearly desirable and the Government should turn its attention to this matter without delay.

NHS test at all ages

From M. C. Macnaughton, Muirhead Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Glasgow, Royal Infirmary, 10 Alexandra Parade, Glasgow.

Your correspondent, Hilary Gomer, said in her article on December 7 - with regard to amniocentesis - that "in Britain any anxious mother can obviously have it done privately at any age at a cost of about £150".

I must point out that amniocentesis is now advised in most NHS maternity units at age 35 or over, and that any

My advice to Mrs Whitaker would be to try not to overcompensate; to let her husband try everything he wishes to do alone; to let him decide and encourage him to do so. There are moments of agony waiting - as when my husband insists on skiing. She may well be surprised - as I still am - at the things her husband can and will do on his own.

Perhaps I am lucky. Every time I still have to reply to a third person's question "Which leg is it your husband is missing? I realize it is his determination to go it alone which makes this question necessary.

I hope that one day soon Mrs Whitaker may find herself being asked the same question.

Pill benefit

From Julia M. Cadman, 16 Newby Park, Chester.

At the start of 1981 I was prescribed the contraceptive pill at my mother's suggestion and with my doctor's ready agreement. This was not in anticipation of sexual activity, but an attempt to control severe epilepsy. A marked monthly pattern in fits had emerged, such that on the last day of my period seven fits in 24 hours was not uncommon.

As a result of the new treatment, I went for six months without grand mal, fits sat and passed all eight "O"-levels I was taking. Had we been a little more aware of my childhood sexuality such treatment might have been lighted upon at an earlier stage, and the relief provided that much the greater.

An apt Christmas cracker motto for the type who's too mean to serve Smirnoff.

Q. What is the definition of an inexpensive fish?

A. A cheapskate.

CUT OUT AND SLIDE INTO YOUR CHEAP CRACKERS.

SMIRNOFF
IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH
IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

Beatrix Potter's stories have enchanted three young generations.

Now Caroline Moorehead discovers

the newly published letters of the Potter characters

Peter Rabbit's postbag

Mrs McGregor, poring over her pie dish and dreaming of a fine supper, may not have been much of a speller, but she was less agitated than Squirrel Nutkin after Mr Brown made off with his tail. Their letters, less than two inches high and packed into minute mail bags, have now been brought out in a book, companion to the 23 published tales of Beatrix Potter. In *Yours affectionately, Peter Rabbit, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle* (Price £1.95), Jeremy Fisher (signing himself Jeremiah) explains why he never married and invitations pass between Tabitha Twitchit, the Flopsy Bunnies and Alderman Ptolemy.

One of the recipients of these enchanting letters was Beatrix Moore, Miss Potter's godchild and daughter of the governess who came to teach German at No 2 Bolton Gardens in 1883. Beatrix Moore later became a journalist and a contributor to the first issue of *Picture Post*. Beatrix Moore is now 80 and a somewhat cosy Beatrix Potter figure herself, with very bright blue round eyes.

The one memento Beatrix, now Mrs Hammarling, has of her godmother is a silver sugar bowl, a christening present sent to her mother in 1903. There is too the dedication in *The Pie and the Patty Pan*: "For Joan to read to baby".

"I well remember Beatrix turning up to see us in Wandsworth", says Mrs Hammarling. During those years Beatrix Potter, a shy and solitary young woman, was much put upon by her Victorian parents and took refuge in increasingly beautiful botanical drawings and her love for small animals. When, in 1901, she conceived of writing and illustrating children's stories, Beatrix remembered her early attempt and wrote asking for it. Printed privately, with black and white illustrations, *Peter Rabbit* was soon taken up by Frederick Warne who asked her to colour the drawings and then sold 27,000 copies in the first year. To the seven succeeding Moore children went *Little Pig Robinson*, *Squirrel Nutkin*, *The Tailor of Gloucester* (Mrs Hammarling's favourite), all based on illustrated letters sent to those same children many years before, and purporting to come from the animals themselves.

In 1893 when Joan's eldest son turned six and was ill in bed, Beatrix Potter wrote to him from Perthshire: "I don't know what to write to you, so I shall tell you a story about four little rabbits, whose names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and



ALAN FRANKS
A cartilage torn in my knee



On the nth day of Christmas my third-born gave to me Twelve nights a-broken Eleven times a-woken Ten nappies soaken Nine nasty tokens Eight fags a-smoked Seven yeasts a-choken Six oaths a-spoken FIVE COLD GRINS Four falling curds Three drenched friends Two hurtled gloves And this job doesn't carry a fee.

On the next day of Christmas my second-born asked of me Twelve knights a-cloaked Eleven bakes bespoken (He must be joking) Nine Indians croaking Eight cowboys gloating Seven castles moated Six dragons smoking FIVE VIKINGS Four manning words Three henchmen Two hurtful shoves And a cartridge for a 3.3



THE TIMES DIARY

Floating campaigner

Paul Gennery, who is challenging the election return of Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, seems to change his opinions quite a lot. Gennery was Mitchell's agent in the 1979 general election. He then became one of the SDP's earliest converts and unsuccessfully tried to persuade Mitchell to leave the Labour Party too. His failure did not seem to result in any hard feelings on his part, for in March 1981 he wrote to the local Labour Party. "You have one of the finest constituency members in the country - take pride in his achievements". In his election address as SDP candidate for Great Grimsby this year, Gennery asked: "What has your MP done for you?" The electors obviously thought he had done quite a lot since Mitchell had returned his seat, albeit with a greatly reduced majority.

Literary germs

Secker and Warburg recently received a £200 bill for fumigating copies of James A. Michener's *Pandemic* which they had shipped to Australia. Peter Gross, the publishing director, replied by Telex: "We accept responsibility for all internal, corrupting, damaging, depraving, maddening, nightmare-inducing or soporific effects of the written word, but transmission of disease takes place outside the covers of the book and is therefore beyond our control and hence not our liability." Back came the reply: "For the entertainment value of Telex almost repeat almost, tempest to wipe fumigation charges. In the end Gross relented and paid the compulsory fee 'in the interests of international goodwill and world health'.

That figures

A colleague who called into a City branch of Wallace Heaton to have the battery in his calculator replaced was told: "Sorry, sir. We don't open up calculators in case they fall to bits."

Singing praises

At an occasion called Carols for Peace held this week in Chelsea, a choir from the Russian Orthodox Church mingled harmoniously with their more worldly countrymen from the Embassy, and Britons of various political persuasions. A Russian professor who was one of the guests thought that Graham Greene should win the Nobel Literature prize and also divulgued that Mr Andropov's favourite author was Erskine Caldwell, author of those two ironic sagas of the American South, *God's Little Acre* and *Tobacco Road*.

BARRY FANTONI



"Neville will be OK. He hasn't worked anywhere for years"

Disarming

John Silkin, the chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, has just been elected president of the Parliamentarians for World Order. This means that he will be out of the country quite a bit for the organization holds meetings every other month in New York as well as regular regional conferences, often abroad. The announcement goes on to stress that Mr Silkin's new job is a very important one. Indeed, packing and unpacking his suitcase will keep the new president so busy that most defence and disarmament issues will now have to be dealt with by Denzil Davies.

Port both ways

Reproducing paintings for Christmas cards is a chancy business. The Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society has chosen Canaletto's painting of Westminster Bridge from the North, with Lambeth Palace in the distance. Owing to the printing process, the painting is the wrong way round. "No wonder they get shipwrecked", said one recipient.

To the point

The Pheasantry in the King's Road, once the haunt of Diaghilev and the Russian ballet, has gone into receivership. The Receiver hopes very much that the restaurants on the original Pheasantry site will keep going and has already had two offers for them. The fact that the Pheasantry retains their original arch and courtyard is due to the Friends of Chelsea, who stopped an officially-approved skyscraper going up. Their appeal was led by Princess Jane Astafieva, granddaughter of the Princess Seraphine Astafieva, who ran a ballet school at the Pheasantry, and Dame Margot Fonteyn, a former pupil of the school. Luckily, the developer was devoted to the ballet and, invited to lunch with Dame Margot, tore up his original plans on the spot.

PHS

Terror: let's fight it together

After the Harrods bomb, Garret Fitzgerald, the Irish Prime Minister, calls for closer cooperation in combating the IRA killers

As I write, five British families, two in the Irish Republic and one in Northern Ireland have been bereaved by the terrorist violence of the past week. Such is the situation we all face that we must pray that the total may not be higher by the time these words are published.

The Irish people feel this Christmas a stronger sense of shared grief and shared outrage with the British people than at any time I can recall. Our ambassador in London, Mr Noel Dorr, has reported to us that in his hospital visits to the injured victims of last Saturday's bombing he was received warmly and without rancour. Mr Dorr spoke for millions of Irish people in Ireland and, indeed, in Britain in expressing our sympathy and good wishes to those admirable people and our profound horror at the crime which had afflicted them.

It may not be fully understood in Britain that the abhorrence of Irish people at this event is especially strong because the explosion was caused by criminals who, with no justification whatever, purport to create enmity between us and the British. For our part I can say that Mrs Thatcher's message to me expressing sympathy to those families of the two members of our security forces killed by the IRA last Friday in the operation which led to the release of the kidnapped Mr Don Tidye, a British citizen, was warmly appreciated here in Ireland. This is therefore a moment of emotional solidarity across the Irish Sea. It is the duty of political leadership now

to ensure that enduring good comes out of these tragedies.

Behind these terrible events, and at the heart of Anglo-Irish relations, lies the extremely complex and intractable political problem of Northern Ireland which we have an overwhelming moral obligation to solve. Any solution will require difficult decisions from each of the protagonists. The British government and political parties, the Irish government and political parties and all non-violent parties in Northern Ireland.

The constitutional Irish nationalist response has been to bring together parties representing 90 per cent of the nationalist voters. North and South, in a New Ireland Forum to seek a path forward towards the objective of peace and stability, seeking ways of reconciling the two Irish traditions.

Within three months we shall know just how successful this initiative has been and whether it can provide a basis for a fresh start in tackling that alienation of Northern nationalists from the political and security processes which underlies the continued violence within, and emanating from, Northern Ireland. To the

extent that the forum comes up with worthwhile ideas that could provide a basis for peace, stability and reconciliation, it will then be for the British government and political leaders to decide whether and how to respond to them.

No one should doubt the will of Irish democratic politicians to tackle the security problems of this island. Whether through the unique process under which IRA terrorists are jailed in the South for crimes of violence or prison escapes in Northern Ireland, for involvement in explosions in Britain, or else through extradition decisions in respect of terrorists like McGlinchey - which was ordered by the Supreme Court last year and is awaiting only his capture - no refuge will begin in our state to any who commit crimes of violence in these islands.

We would ask the British government, political parties and the British public to join with the Irish in a commitment against the gunmen, a commitment to exclude them from a say in our future. That can only mean joining with constitutional politicians in Ireland in a single urgent effort to create structures which will bring peace and real political progress.

The gunmen have been sustained not only by a distorted sense of history but at times by an over-emphasis on security policy at the expense of politics, the impact of which on the ground has contributed to the profound alienation of many among the minority in Northern Ireland. A different and somewhat contrasting error which has encouraged the IRA in particular, and which has been particularly resented by British politicians, has been the series of direct or indirect contacts with the IRA and Sinn Fein on the part of past Secretaries of State and, in one notable instance, of a leader of the Opposition: this has bolstered the gunmen's conviction that by continuing to bomb and to murder they will eventually prevail politically.

The only convincing way that governments and politicians can now demonstrate their resolution to stand against terrorism is to act urgently and resolutely together on the political front and to exclude rigorously from that effort those who support extremism.

This is what we are trying to do in Ireland. The next step must be that we all do it together. The British and Irish peoples will want to ensure that their innocent dead will not have died in vain. The problems are immense but I believe that our will to succeed, backed by the growing concern of all the people of these two islands, is greater now than ever before.

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Robert Fisk goes on patrol with the Queen's Royal Lancers

Beirut, a battle honour these soldiers don't seek



Corporal Steve Collingwood of Birmingham, awaiting the action in Beirut: the Royal Lancers have a "cold detachment" about events in Lebanon except where they impinge directly on the British

both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine some very considerable worries.

At Westminster, the Opposition suggested that perhaps the British really had no business in Lebanon.

In the mess at Heseltine, the reaction was somewhat different: Corporal Nicholl made off with the spent bullet while Mr Campbell's colleagues very firmly told him not to plaster over the hole. It had to remain there: a memento, a battle honour.

The picture, whose caption gravely records the serious wounds with the major sustained later in the battle, occupies pride of place in the new mess which the officers of the British Army's tiny contingent to the multinational force in Beirut have just been refurbishing.

You could just hear the Lebanese army tanks and the local Shia Muslim militia celebrating the latest ceasefire by shooting at each other at Galerie Semaan, but Lt Alec Campbell was dutifully plastering over the bullet holes and broken picture hooks which the Syrian army left behind in 1983, turning the room into a place fit for the young gentlemen of what is now the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers.

They have, it is true, covered the wooden door with a dreadful red plastic cloth that makes it look like the entrance to a Beirut night club. But Mr Campbell is clearly a dab hand with a trowel even if his colleagues did disagree about one of the bullet holes in the wall. It was created earlier this month by a gunman who sprayed the British headquarters with automatic fire a few hours after Mr Campbell had been unwise enough to hang two prized 1822 family prints above the sofa missing the pictures but smashing the antique frames and leaving a gash in the wall.

That particular hole in the wall was part of an attack which caused

the others. I'm glad to say, went on towards Beirut." There is just the faintest trace of a smile.

By contrast, there was consternation in the mess when the BBC reported the bomb explosion at Harrods. Perhaps there has simply been - as yet - no reason for anger over Lebanon, which sometimes seems more like an adventure than a duty. Take Lt David Edie's patrol up the wadi last week. Mr Edie (Eton) calls it the "wadi" although in fact it is a mud track beside the bed of the Beirut river. The sand-coloured Ferrets bump and rock their way through miniature lakes with Edie's head protruding from the leading vehicle until, a round a corner in the gorge, we are facing a massive, broken Roman aqueduct.

Despite the setting, the radio identification codes are extremely English. The commanding officer is "Sunray", the doctor is "Starlight", the watchkeeper is invariably "Mushroom". The Lebanese army is inevitably "Cedar". Sunray is Lt-Col Gordon Ferguson of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, one of the cocktail of "other regiments" that are attached to the Lancers in Beirut.

Colonel Ferguson has a pretty shrewd idea just how dangerous the British patrols could turn out to be.

The 16th/5th went to Lurgan in 1980 - Beirut is less boring, they say - but they don't talk much about Ireland.

Mention regimental history, however, and Lt Campbell produces a small volume and begins reading aloud from it for a very long time, on and on about Altwal and a junior officer dying with 16 wounds whose last thought is to encourage the Lancers.

He knows the battle honours by heart: Malplaquet, Oudenarde, Blenheim, Mons, Flanders... If the 16th/5th are lucky, Lebanon will never be among them.

70 Down - how many more to go?

and everything, from Broadway shows to tax returns, was "melt right toots" (anagram: 5.2.3.4).

Two newspapers stood out against the tide: *The Times* and the *New York Times*. The latter, in fact, resisted the crossword until as late as 1942. *The Times* succumbed somewhat earlier on January 23, 1930.

By 1934 when the craze had almost reached its peak, Arthur Wynne would be familiar with American newspapers and magazines. If so, it must have stood him in good stead when he emigrated, in about 1905, and subsequently joined the *New York World*.

As Editor of the *World's "Fun"* supplement, Wynne was responsible for compiling the weekly puzzle page. And for the issue before Christmas 1913, he decided something extra was needed.

His "Word-Cross", as he called it, was an instant success in the *New York World*. Within weeks, Wynne had switched from Word-Cross to Crossword, but the hyphen lingered on into the 1930s. Arthur Wynne's first puzzle gave little hint of the devastating effect that it was to have. The 1920s saw a crossword craze which, unlike many others, has never died, making the yo-yo, mahjong and Rubik's cube look like what they were - simply passing fancies.

At its height, people used crosswords to announce their engagements, or to leave clues to the police to explain their suicide. Professors lauded them, libraries condemned them: they broke up homes or pleased the insane, depending upon which "expert" or news report was consulted. Anything

for September 1873, published in New York, I found a nine-nine by Diamond, described enthusiastically by its compiler, "Hyperion" - then as now, pseudonyms were much favoured by compilers as "the largest ever made".

The task of the word-be-solver was made more difficult by the lack of a grid in which to set the answers but, because of typographical limitations, this was quite normal. In many ways the inclusion of grids that was one of Arthur Wynne's major contributions.

Hyperion's Double Diamond, with its Across and Down clues and interlocking words is a crossword puzzle in all but name, making it the earliest yet to be discovered. The actual term crossword, in a variety of forms, had been in use since the 1800s, although the OED gives the date of 1914.

To give Wynne his due, his first "Word-Cross" was not just a word diamond with clues - it was a hollow diamond. It was this introduction of spaces within the matrix that allowed the crossword to develop away from the constraints of the original word squares, diamonds and other close-packed arrangements.

I found just such a hollow diamond in the *Wide Awake Pleasure Book*, published in Boston, Massachusetts in 1879. Compiled by "English Boy" of West Bethel, Maine, it has three Across and three Down clues, all for words of seven letters each. Even more than the "solid" word-diamonds of the period, it appears as a simple precursor of Wynne's original.

For some, talk of word diamonds will be less than convincing since most modern crosswords are square. The *Wide Awake Pleasure Book* of 1879 has what is possibly the first "hollow" arrangement.

Prize Cross-Word Square (note the hyphen) compiled by Bella J. of New York City. The puzzle consists of a five by five square with three Across and three Down clues with all the answers five-lettered. For the first correct solution, the puzzle editor, one Kit Clinton offered a nice chrome.

Alas, no one claimed the prize. But looking at the actual clues, one is not exactly surprised. Some words were probably more familiar than now but many of the words are obscure. But to the modern puzzler, what is more daunting than obscurity is the use of general categories rather than precise definitions, which was customary at the time. Nevertheless, unlike some word squares offered to *St Nicholas* four years earlier, it was apparently much easier to solve than the original.

If these early crosswords appear small by modern standards, it is worth recalling that the first one published in this country, in 1923, was only seven by seven, and the five by five puzzle has been featured by *Giant's* magazine in recent years.

What then remains unique to the modern crossword? The small reference numbers and the black squares? Not all countries use them and certainly not all the time. So for the moment, it would seem that the crossword dates back from at least the 1870s. Somewhere there is an earlier crossword, waiting to be found.

Kenneth Miller

The holiday Jumbo crossword will be published tomorrow.

Simon Jenkins

The top shops that stay closed

Monopolies, someone once said, are like babies. We are against them until we have one of our own. A government minister robustly declared last week that the future of the closed shop was at last in jeopardy. In ringing tones, he declared that such restrictions were a "flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties... not only morally wrong but deeply damaging to the economy and jobs".

Morally wrong? Why then, in the past month, has the same government acted to protect from deregulation two closed shops - those of stockbrokers and of conveyancing solicitors? The pressure placed on ministers was uncannily similar to that of "working-class" trade unions on a Labour government. Constituency parties leaned on their MPs. There were lobbies at Parliament (discretely, not mass ones). Members would murmur "crisis of professional conscience" to those father confessors of the body politic, the whips.

With all the passion of a Joe Wade, stockbrokers and solicitors alike argued the adjustments they had already made to the twin totems of Thatcherism, new technology and market forces. They pleaded the problems of adjustment. They pleaded hard cases. They pleaded social benefits from their monopolies. Only let the government protect them from the Office of Fair Trading and Austin Mitchell's House Buyers' Bill. So far they have won.

What is so defensible about middle-class unionism, but evil about the working-class variety? Why is a government ideologically committed to rooting out all and every monopoly so ready to conform to Marxism's stereotype of Tory class rule?

Myth and reality in British government remains an opaque topic. The Wilson and Callaghan administrations drew ideological inspiration from economic planning, growth and higher welfare spending. Yet in retrospect, these things seem a series of tawdry concessions to Labour's trade union backers. As ministers wrestled with the Protection of Employment Bill and countless public spending reviews, the reality was higher wages for public sector monopoly unions and greater legal privileges for private sector ones.

Mrs Thatcher's government presented itself as equally rational in its policy motivation. Markets were the engines of economic efficiency and must simply be allowed to work. Deregulation, privatization and legislation against restrictive practices were matters not for the heart but for the head. They were the keys to the ladder of Tory economic prosperity. And as proof of Mrs Thatcher's determination, the new "cabinet of losers" would be secure against the pork-barrel, old-boy network which had made past administrations so prey to interest-group pressure. The government would do what was right, not what its supporters wanted. So we were told.

It was never going to be thus. From the upper-band tax cuts of 1979 through the company cars subsidy (now at £2 billion) to the increase in mortgage tax relief, a concern to protect the party's predominant interest among middle-class union members are now marginal Tory voters? It has likewise pursued business and industry through the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies Commission. But industry is no favourite of modern Toryism.

No, the traditional interests of post-war Toryism, the land and the professions, are clear of blame for any of Britain's shortcomings. Mrs Thatcher, whose signal virtue is at least a consciousness of her mandate, has occasionally argued with her colleagues that these interests should be cut down to size. So far, she has argued in vain. A shrewd minister will still insist that the closed shops and restrictive practices of his supporters, their protective legislation and covert subsidies, are central to the fabric of British society, the underpinning of the establishment. Tory monopolies must never die.

The author is Political Editor of *The Economist*.

Philip Howard

Enough legend to fill a stocking

Here we go again, then.

The time draws near the birth of

Christ: The moon is hid; the night is still;

The Christmas bells from hill to hill

كذا من الأصل

THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 23 1983



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WCIX 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE POUND IN YOUR PURSE

Until Mrs Thatcher got to her feet to answer parliamentary questions for the last time before Christmas, everyone in what are conventionally called government circles who felt entitled to have an informed opinion on the future of the pound note had no doubts about the policy for it. The note was heading for oblivion and for total replacement by the new one pound coin. What is more, its life-span was not expected to be long. The bureaucrats who determine these matters know their public's ingrained conservatism and dislike of newfangledness but they also know that what the public hates today it loves when time has worked its miracle, tomorrow. They did not suppose that much more than a year would be required to see the new pound coin as firmly accepted as the once disliked 50 pence piece now is, after which the last tattered notes could be incinerated.

Then Mrs Thatcher spoke, and not for the first time did a little policy-making on her feet. Responding to a backbench Conservative defender of the one pound note, the Prime Minister accepted that the equivalent coin was not popular. "I have reason to believe," she added cryptically, "that the one pound note will be retained", and she left it at that.

What that reason was she did not divulge, but its identity is hardly obscure. It was her own instinctive reaction to the change. Mrs Thatcher, as well as being Prime Minister, also makes a point of being (so far as time allows) a housewife with a shopping-bag. She therefore knows what it is to juggle with a purse (or come to that, a pocketful) of assorted coins, up to a maximum of eight denominations, none of which presents any logical relationship between size and value. What is more, she is presumably aware from experience that, to the eyes of the overforties who have come to need reading-glasses, a fistful of 5 pence, 20 pence and £1 pieces are not easily distinguishable in a

poor light. Besides, though something of a radical in policy terms, Mrs Thatcher is also in practice a traditionalist: it would not, therefore, be surprising if she felt a certain affection for the old pound note for the sake of what it was before the demon inflation did its dirty work.

Inflation is, of course, the reason for the one pound coin. With the pound's loss of value, the notes are already treated as coins and loose change. They no longer repose clean and crisp in wallets, produced for occasional use; instead they are stuffed in pockets, waistcoats and purses, quickly becoming filthy and crumpled. Their old dignity is destroyed. What is more, the fact that they are treated as pseudo-coins actually makes it harder to replace them with clean new notes. When notes circulated more through the banks, the banks could send them back to the Bank of England for new ones when they became soiled. Now they go round and round as loose change between different pockets and purses, and the banks have much less chance to send them back before they become disgusting. Even so, their life is not more than about 10 months before they have to be replaced. Coins are more economical for the job and comparing the cost of producing constantly replaced notes with the cost of producing coins over the forty-year span which is the lifetime of a coin, several hundreds of millions of pounds would be saved, at present values, by shifting entirely to pound coins.

For all these good and logical reasons, the Treasury which has responsibility in these matters had no doubt about what would happen until its First Lord took it by surprise yesterday. The sweetness of certainty pervaded the answers of Lord Glenarthur when he was questioned on the subject in the Lords on Tuesday. It was one of those occasions when the Upper House demonstrates that its claim to the virtual representation of those who did not elect it is not far short of the claim of 18th century MPs sitting for rotten constituencies.

HOMES FOR SALE - OR RENT?

The right of sitting tenants in ordinary council houses and flats to buy their homes is a stout principle. Its application in the past three years has been a boon to hundreds of thousands of families from municipal tenure of a type which the passage of time and the growth of incomes had rendered obsolete. The principle, however, is still observed only in the breach by sundry Labour-controlled city councils which - difficult as their housing is to make attractive for sale - have done everything short of law-breaking to discourage tenants: in debates on the Housing and Building Control Bill this week Mr Gow made a welcome promise to keep up the pressure on local authorities for which collective provision is the highest good.

Yet the right to buy is not, as the government appears to think, a universal one, to be compromised neither by fiscal common sense nor the state's duty to deal justly between social groups and generations. A right to buy need not encompass a right to extremely generous discounts - gifts of public money. The newly-tabled clauses to the Housing Bill offering a cash hand-out to the tenants of charitable housing associations will need very careful examination in the House of Lords.

Called to account

From Mr Asim Hussain

Sir, I write as a former Deputy Secretary-General who served the Commonwealth Secretariat for over seven years under two Secretaries-General until 1978. I read your editorial "Called to account" of December 2 with much concern because it is so obviously based on lack of information or understanding of the rules and procedures which govern the working of the secretariat.

There is a full measure of accountability. The secretariat is under constant scrutiny by the finance committee, consisting of all the 39 Commonwealth High Commissioners in London and a representative of the British Government, who approve the annual budget and also conduct a half-yearly review, after an eleven-member finance sub-committee has examined every aspect of expenditure in minute detail.

In addition, there is a wider ranging review by senior officials of the Commonwealth every two years, triennial reviews of salaries and allowances, and special reviews of the secretariat's objectives and priorities - there being two such in 1982, one of management structure and establishment, and another of classification, which have been progressively implemented in 1983. It is well recognized that its secretariat is cost effective.

It is equally wrong to say that "its senior appointments smack of an old boy network", or owe little to

whose members have shown themselves to have a keen eye for fairness: the government rightly wants to help this particular group of tenants but is a reduction in the money for housing associations the way?

The government's enthusiasm has now led it to apply the right to buy to the many council properties occupied by the elderly or disabled which are neither "ordinary" dwellings nor can be described as purpose-built. They may be bungalows which are easy of access by people who cannot manage stairs; flats where ramps have been built or those with bathrooms converted for the use of the infirm. The 1980 Housing Act left the status of such dwellings unclear and Mr Gow is in no doubt right to condemn those councils which have jury-rigged an intercom system between flats occupied by elderly people when passed them off as specialized accommodation in a bid to escape the right to buy. But there remains doubt over whether the government has thought through the consequences of declaring that accommodation for the elderly belongs to the general stock.

One consequence must surely be a reluctance on the part of councils to continue what in many areas has been good work

in building imaginative units useful for elderly occupants but not to be classified as "sheltered" (that is, where a warden is resident) and so exempt from purchase. Another could be the loss of dwellings containing specialized equipment if, as Mr Gow said he intended, elderly tenants buy and are succeeded by able-bodied inheritors; for councils then to purchase these dwellings would involve a substantial loss of public money and an unwarranted capital gift to undeserving beneficiaries of the tenants' estate.

The Housing and Building Control Bill has not had a happy provenance. Before the election the House of Lords threw out a key clause on the right of tenants of charitable housing associations; since then, the government has slipped in important exchanges at obscure stages. Now it goes to the Lords again and again it deserves a thorough examination. The duties and responsibilities of local authorities to provide housing for the elderly are of long standing; it is a role in which Mr Gow himself has encouraged them. There are strong reasons of public finance and social need for the Lords to consider very carefully this week's amendments extending an otherwise sound principle to a special and vulnerable group.

competitive selection procedures. The two senior posts, like that of the Secretary-General, are elective; the rest are within the discretion of the Secretary-General, but he acts in accordance with general principles laid down in the agreed memorandum of 1965 by Heads of Commonwealth governments.

The most important principle is equitable geographical distribution. The vacancies in diplomatic positions are circulated to Commonwealth governments, and the semi-diplomatic and senior secretariat positions are intimated to High Commissions. Since Commonwealth governments have plenty of officials seeking experience and service in an international secretariat, there is keen competition for posts, and the Secretary-General cannot ignore consideration of such requests coming from Commonwealth governments.

It is, therefore, both inaccurate and unfair to write of "judicious patronage in senior appointments". More generally, such authority as has been delegated by Commonwealth governments to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in the matter of appointments is no more than has been delegated to the United Nations Secretary-General and the directors-general of the specialized agencies.

All this is quite easily ascertainable. One wonders why you chose to ignore it in so vigorous an attack on the secretariat two days after the successful Commonwealth meeting in New Delhi and the unanimous decision of Commonwealth leaders

to invite the Secretary-General to serve a further term.

Yours faithfully,
AZIM HUSAIN,
14 Lynton Close, N2.

From Dr D. C. Potts

Sir, The Headmistress of Harrogate Grammar School (December 9) is only the latest in a line of distinguished heads whose letters to you show a total misapprehension of Oxford's new admissions policy, inasmuch as they assume that there will no longer be any place for seventh-term candidates.

The university's Admissions Office has made it quite clear that it is not seventh-term entry which is being abolished, but the seventh-term written examination. In its place, from December 1985, onwards, seventh-term candidates will be asked to show their places orally in a scrutiny of their abilities which will be more probing academically than the present interview which complements written papers.

There is no reason why Mrs Dance's dedicated staff should not prepare their pupils for this just as effectively as they have been doing for the written examination, and every reason, given the increasing importance in the modern world of verbal communication skills, for them to regard it as a challenge well worth meeting.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. POTTS,
Keble College, Oxford.

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Fear of restriction on video

From the Editor of the Common Market Law Reports

Sir, The present Government has, rightly and successfully, been encouraging this country to embrace new information technology. And yet it does not seem to be aware of the harm that will be caused to that development by two Bills at present before Parliament.

He (who) normally speaks for Health and Social Security as that department's under-secretary (answered) with the full confidence of a junior minister who has the power of Whitchurch behind him. "It is the Government's intention to withdraw the £1 note from circulation in due course once the public have had time to become accustomed to the £1 coin." He rejected the idea of a plastic £1 note as too forgeable, as did the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Ian Stewart, on a Commons adjournment motion the same night. Asked if he was sure that people wanted the new coin Lord Glenarthur remarked that "extensive consultations" had established the demand for it, adding mysteriously that his own private survey round their Lordships' House had found that it was "50-50 in favour."

Had Mr Stewart and Lord Glenarthur been able to consult the Prime Minister they would apparently have discovered that her mind had been made up on the subject for some time, even though she had not thought to mention it until yesterday. The note, it seems will be with us for the foreseeable future, which means as long as people want it. The likelihood is that it will be wanted, as an option, until the whole range of the coinage has been re-assessed. Pockets full of heavy 10 pence pieces of low value, together with small light 20 pence pieces, and small heavy pounds makes no sense, except to those hoping that someone will make a mistake with his change. The Treasury, together with the Bank of England and the Mint (its agents for notes and coins respectively) are thinking about it, and the Prime Minister's opinion on the subject ought to be very useful to them at an early stage of their general consultations.

The two Bills merge together in the new area of videublishing on laser discs and computer tapes. There are already signs that Standing Committee C may require interactive computer material to be subjected to video censorship. Video encyclopedias and videojournalism are unlikely to escape scot-free, in spite of the "information, education or instruction" clause.

This is not a plea for video nasties or invasions of privacy. It is, however, an urgent warning to beware of the consequences of what, with the best of motives, we are now embarked upon.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGS,
Editor,
Common Market Law Reports,
European Law Centre Limited,
4 Bloomsbury Square, WC1.
December 17.

Jobs in Gibraltar

From Mr Michael J. Burnett

Sir, There could hardly have been a more inappropriately titled leader than that of December 13 headed "Gift horse on the Rock".

Firstly, Gibraltar is entering the ship repairing market at a time when virtually no ship repair yards, including those of British Shipbuilders are profitable. Neighbouring regional shipyards at Cadiz, Huelva and Lisbon are heavily subsidised, have lower unit labour costs, and possess the same benefits of location which you ascribe to Gibraltar.

Secondly, the considerable overcapacity in world merchant fleets has led to many governments (and the EEC Commission) financing the scrapping of old ships and the rebuilding of new ships of more appropriate capacity, thus reducing the potential repair market.

Thirdly, your leader ignores the possibility of the Spanish government applying clandestine commercial pressure to shipping lines not to use Gibraltar as a means of pursuing their territorial claim to the Rock.

Within such a short period of transition the commercially managed shipyard in Gibraltar has very little chance of becoming profitable and thus of absorbing those currently employed in the dockyard (14 per cent of the total labour force) let alone of mopping up, as you suggest, unemployed construction workers.

Without employment in the dockyard the retail sector will be further squeezed in addition to the estimated loss of some £8m per year of expenditure (11 per cent of GNP) arising from the discrimination practised by the Spanish authorities in their restricted opening of the land frontier.

Your leader has laid the ground for any failure of the commercialised yard to be attributed to trade union inflexibility, or the lack of determination to succeed of the Gibraltarians as a whole. With the continued economic restrictions from Spain, perhaps the dockyard proposals will be better described as a Trojan horse.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. BURNETT,
Members Room,
The Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street, SW18.
December 17.

competitive selection procedures. The two senior posts, like that of the Secretary-General, are elective; the rest are within the discretion of the Secretary-General, but he acts in accordance with general principles laid down in the agreed memorandum of 1965 by Heads of Commonwealth governments.

The most important principle is equitable geographical distribution. The vacancies in diplomatic positions are circulated to Commonwealth governments, and the semi-diplomatic and senior secretariat positions are intimated to High Commissions. Since Commonwealth governments have plenty of officials seeking experience and service in an international secretariat, there is keen competition for posts, and the Secretary-General cannot ignore consideration of such requests coming from Commonwealth governments.

It is, therefore, both inaccurate and unfair to write of "judicious patronage in senior appointments". More generally, such authority as has been delegated by Commonwealth governments to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in the matter of appointments is no more than has been delegated to the United Nations Secretary-General and the directors-general of the specialized agencies.

All this is quite easily ascertainable. One wonders why you chose to ignore it in so vigorous an attack on the secretariat two days after the successful Commonwealth meeting in New Delhi and the unanimous decision of Commonwealth leaders

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too high a price for the job in hand?

From the Director of the Low Pay Unit

Sir, You argue (leading article, December 20) that wages councils, which set legal minimum rates of pay for nearly three million of the lowest paid and largely non-unionised workers, "tend to price young people out of jobs" and should be abolished.

Before following your counsel, ministers would be wise to ask themselves why it is, therefore, that youth unemployment has risen most sharply since the mid-1970s, a period in which the earnings of young people relative to adults have risen. They should also examine the success of the Young Workers Scheme (YWS), which must surely be the litmus test of the wage-cutting strategy.

The scheme is designed explicitly to cut the wages of young people, but in both cases the remedy is much broader and more dangerous to our liberties than is necessary, the video censorship Bill in particular giving vast unfettered powers to the Government which could easily be misused in the future. Videos of *The Day After*, for instance, would be subject to pre-censorship.

The procedures and associated costs involved in complying with these new laws will bear particularly heavily on small businesses with their scant resources available to cope with such requirements. Video sales have been seen by many as a means of freeing us from the present restrictive patterns of film distribution, but the Bill will give added strength to the traditional film industry methods, in particular, the supply of cultural films and small quantity imports will be made very difficult.

The two Bills merge together in the new area of videublishing on laser discs and computer tapes. There are already signs that Standing Committee C may require interactive computer material to be subjected to video censorship. Video encyclopedias and videojournalism are unlikely to escape scot-free, in spite of the "information, education or instruction" clause.

This is not a plea for video nasties or invasions of privacy. It is, however, an urgent warning to beware of the consequences of what, with the best of motives, we are now embarked upon.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC ATKINSON,
Blaek House,
The Drive,
Belmont,
Sutton, Surrey.

From Professor G. R. Dunstan

Sir, You write in your leading article of December 17, on the printing by *The Guardian* of a "leaked" secret memorandum, that had it fallen into

the hands of the Low Pay Unit

On December 17 you tell us that rather than disclose the source of a confidential report it is "usually the duty of a journalist... to say nothing and take the consequences, which may in the last resort include imprisonment for contempt".

On the other hand, on December 14, in connexion with the NGA dispute, you welcomed a statement by Mr Kinnock that "he did not condone breaches of the law". Where lies the difference?

Yours faithfully,
ALEC ATKINSON,

Common Market Law Reports,

European Law Centre Limited,

4 Bloomsbury Square, WC1.

December 17.

From Professor D. G. Barnsley

Sir, Anyone reading the House Buyers Bill will immediately notice one glaring omission. Nowhere is there any requirement that a "licensed conveyancer" needs to have any relevant legal training or even a rudimentary understanding of land law, contract or conveyancing principles.

There is a real danger that the public will assume that the issue of a licence implies a minimum standard of competence. This will not be so.

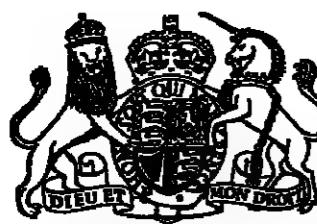
It is difficult to see how the Consumers' Association can actively support the passing of legislation which will facilitate the undertaking of legal work for gain by persons having no legal knowledge or skill.

This desire to foist untrained conveyancers on the general public stands in stark contrast to their recent warnings to householders about the dangers of employing inexperienced plumbers (see the September 1983, issue of *Which?*)

Will he be aware of fiscal or other considerations that may in a particular case render it desirable to create a beneficial tenancy in common, so defeating the word "can" from the declaration? And what if one party fails to complete on the agreed date? Serving a notice to complete can be a tricky business, as solicitors have sometimes discovered.

These are only some aspects of a typical transfer that the "licensed conveyancer" will encounter.

That the solicitors' monopoly in routine conveyancing matters can no longer be justified in certain debatable. To throw open registered conveyancing to any untrained and inexperienced person is quite indefensible.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 22. The Reverend Professor Owen Chadwick had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

Mr Arthur Schmidt wishes all his friends a merry Christmas, as he will not be sending any Christmas cards.

The Lebanese Maronite Community in London announces the celebration of a Christmas Mass by Father Antoine Sleiman on December 25, 1983 at 11 am at St Edward's Convent Chapel, 11 Harewood Avenue, London NW1 (nearest Tube station, Marylebone). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr B. D. Ross and Miss V. Gosselin

The marriage has been arranged between Barnaby David, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Ross, of The Monk's Barn, Sherborne, and Virginia, daughter of the Rev Nigel and Mrs Owenden, of Compton Rectory, Winchester.

Mr A. D. Simon and Miss T. M. Stopford

The engagement is announced between Anton, second son of Mr A. G. Simon, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, and Mrs M. M. Simon, of Newton Kyme, Yorkshire, and Tess, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs M. R. H. Stopford, of Fulham, London.

Mr S. A. Skillman and Miss H. C. Jameson

The engagement is announced between Samuel Skillman, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, and Helen Jameson, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr D. F. Venn and Miss M. E. Filker

The engagement is announced between Duncan Venn, Royal Anglican Regiment, eldest son of Group Captain and Mrs M. G. P. Venn, of RAF (H), Ely, and Filiz, elder daughter of the late Mr H. Filker, of Cyprus, and Mrs E. Filker, Mr. O. Vetter and Miss C. R. C. Wood

The engagement is announced between Olivier, elder son of Professor J. P. Vetter, of Montreal, and Miss M. Vetter, and Kate, daughter of Mr R. C. Wood and Mrs P. M. Wood, of Guernsey.

Captain P. J. Ward, RAMC, and Miss K. M. Turner

The engagement is announced between Phillip, youngest son of Dr and Mrs F. H. Ward, of Havant, Hampshire, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr D. J. Turner, of Hampshire, and Mrs S. W. Turner, of Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Mr R. A. M. Gaits and Deaconess M. A. Hutchison

The engagement is announced between Ayodeji Malcolm, son of Professor and Mrs Harold Gaits, of Hamilton, Ontario, and Margaret Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hutchison, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr M. J. H. Littlejohns and Miss I. A. Paschetta

The engagement is announced between Mark Littlejohns, of Highgate, London, and Isabelle Paschetta, of Nice, France.

Mr P. T. Mallory and Miss F. M. G. Neville-Rolfe

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the Rev R. and Mrs De Witt Mallory, of New York City, and Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edmund Neville-Rolfe, of Tisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr E. J. Millions and Miss W. E. Feather

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs J. Millions, of Farnwood, Hampshire, and Willow, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. C. Feather, of Prestwold, Leicestershire.

Birthdays today

Lord Bancroft, 61; Mrs C. Bicknell, 64; Mr Archibald Black, 76; Lord Blake, 67; Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Carilli, 81; Professor Sir Theodore Crawford, 72; Mr Maurice Denham, 74; Mr Richard Findlay, 82; Mr Christopher Lawrence, 47; Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Morris, 84; Miss I. M. Quigley, 60; Mrs Hilary Scott, 65; Miss William Temple, 93; Mr Rayner Unwin, 58.

Memorial service

Mr A. N. Steel
A memorial service for Mr Anthony Steel was held on Wednesday at the Holy Trinity, Brompton. The Rev Sandy Millar officiated. Mr Timothy Steel (son) read the lesson and Sir Nicholas Gooldson (Chairman of the Stock Exchange) gave an address.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Group Captain V. B. Howells to be Aide-de-Camp to the Queen. He succeeds Group Captain M. J. C. W. Dicken.

Group Captain D. Conus to be Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, in succession to Group Captain A. A. G. Woodford.

Dr W. A. Holmes-Walker, to be Secretary General of the Common Market Brewers' Association in Brussels.

Mrs D. J. Main, chairman of Wiltshire education committee, to be a member of the School Curriculum Development Committee.

Science report

Cloning and lasers herald the end of tooth decay

New York (N.Y. Times News Service) — Public health officials in the United States are predicting the virtual end of tooth decay among children and young adults by the end of the century because of new developments in dental technology and the fluoridation of water supplies.

This year alone advances in dental research have ranged from the identification of the gene that produces tooth enamel, and thus the potential for cloning it by genetic engineering, to the use of lasers in an experimental method of recrystallizing the mineral structure of decaying teeth.

Coupled with the wider use of fluorides and sealants, the officials say, the new technology should almost halt tooth decay for people under the age of 50 within the foreseeable future.

Dr Harold Lee, director of the National Institute of Dental Research in Bethesda, Maryland, says the revolution in dental research, technology and treatment over the past decade has yielded remarkable results.

By the end of the century the loss of teeth would be rare, he believed.

Fluoridation, which was started as a research project in Michigan in 1945, came to New York State shortly afterwards and accelerated in the 1960s, has led to an enormous decrease in tooth decay in young people.

Fluoridation itself was accompanied by research into other types of dental protection, such as plastic coatings for teeth.

According to one federal survey, more than one third of Americans under 17 have no tooth decay at all today, while

in the past decade tooth decay in those under 17 has been halved.

Dr Albert Russell, a dental researcher at the University of Michigan, has studied the effects of fluoridation in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the first American city deliberately to fluoridate its water. He estimates that tooth decay among young people there has been reduced by 80 per cent.

According to Dr Lee, the treatment of gum disease among the middle-aged and elderly remained a serious problem that had not been adequately researched.

However, the National Dental Institute was beginning to research the ailments of older Americans.

Among the solutions would be widespread use of a mouth rinse that would help to kill the bacteria that start gum disease.

Such a procedure, widely used in Europe, is among the many that have been discussed recently at meetings of dental researchers.

This month, Dr Harold C. Slavkin, a professor of biochemistry at the University of Southern California's school of dentistry, and Mr Malcolm L. Sneed, of Baylor University, reported that they had taken the initial step toward identifying genetic material that would cause yeast cells to manufacture the protein molecules for dental enamel.

The two dental researchers predicted that when the process is perfected, perhaps in five years, yeast cells would be implanted in cavities, where they would grow clumped crystals that would be more attractive and last longer than the metal and porcelain now used in fillings.

ST. BATHOLMEW, CHELSEA, C.R. 4, 11-48. Wood in the Preceptory made. A. O. ST. BRIDGES, Farnham, Surrey. The Rectory.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, EC. 4, 11-48. The setting for five parts of the Last Supper by the Flemish artist Pieter Brueghel the Elder.

ST. SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL, Midships. The Last Supper by the Flemish artist Pieter Brueghel the Elder.

ST. CLEMENT DANE, G.R.A.F., CHURCH, EC. 4, 11-50. The Last Supper by the Flemish artist Pieter Brueghel the Elder.

ST. CLEMENT ROYAL, HAMPTON COURT, MIDDLESEX. The Last Supper by the Flemish artist Pieter Brueghel the Elder.

ST. ALBAN'S HOLBORN, CAROLS, 11-50. The Last Supper by the Flemish artist Pieter Brueghel the Elder.

HOLY TRINITY, MARYLEBONE, MARYLEBONE, 11-50. The Last Supper by the Flemish artist Pieter Brueghel the Elder.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Fraser expects Lonrho to attempt the obvious

In the wake of the tragic bombing of Harrods, the price of House of Fraser shares has risen 20p to within two pence of the high for the year. Business in the stock market, as in the most famous of Fraser's department stores, has continued more or less as usual and the movement in the shares has caused a fresh rash of speculation about Fraser's fate. This turns, as everyone by now knows, on the outcome of the relentless siege of the Fraser board by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland who, through Lonrho, directly commands just under 30 per cent of Fraser's equity. Mr Rowland's stated objective is to demerge Harrods from House of Fraser. So far Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, and the majority of Fraser directors (Lonrho has two Fraser directors, Mr Rowland and Lord Duncan-Sands) have thwarted him.

Suggestions in the market yesterday that the beleaguered majority had agreed to hiving off Harrods, and Professor Smith was giving up the struggle, were dismissed by the company as "total and absolute garbage". But my instinct tells me that Mr Rowland has been too quiet for too long. I understand that his offer to sponsor the Derby for £600,000 has been turned down by the Jockey Club because of a certain condition he laid down and his decision to put seasonal greetings from Lonrho in the windows of the former Bunny Club in Park Lane, now owned by Lonrho, also caused a certain furore. But the big prize remains Harrods and if Mr Rowland does not move soon, he may not be able to move at all.

Time is ticking away in the Department of Trade and Industry's inquiry into the Fraser share register. This was ordered in August when Mr John Griffiths, a former attorney-general for Hongkong, was appointed to discover whether heavy buying of Fraser shares, mainly from abroad, was "in concert" and, therefore in contravention of the 1981 Companies Act. Lonrho said at the time that "we have nothing to fear from this investigation."

Mr Griffiths ought to complete his work within two months at the outside. Should he, or the Government on the basis of his findings, decide, say, to disenfranchise

Old Lady's loss is GEC's gain

Gordon Richardson, now Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne, would have liked another spell as Governor of the Bank of England: not perhaps another full five-year term, but perhaps two or so years before making way for his successor.

Mrs Thatcher, however, preferred to make a new appointment, before the General Election, and Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton moved from the chair at National Westminster to embrace the Old Lady (of Threadneedle Street, that is) on July 1.

Lord Richardson is too sage and valuable a man to spend aimless days in a quiet office at the Bank of England, thoughtfully arranged on his behalf by Sir Jasper Hollom, a former deputy governor and still a member of the Court. Not surprisingly, his first post-governmental step is into that modern Greek gymnasium, the boardroom of General Electric, now presided over by Lord Carrington, with the irrepressible Lord Weinstock as permanently resident director of studies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

\$7m call by Airship Industries

Airship Industries yesterday announced details of a \$7m rights issue – its second cash call on shareholders in less than 10 months.

The issue is being underwritten by Bond Corporation, the company run and controlled by the flamboyant Australian entrepreneur Mr Alan Bond who recently added the Americas Cup to his list of successes.

Mr Andrew Millar, the chairman of Airship, which hopes to make the first commercially produced airships in Britain since the 1930s, said that without refinancing the company's achievements over the last eight years would be vulnerable. Since 1978, the company has spent more than £11m developing its product.

• The Inland Revenue has published draft legislation on the tax treatment of deep discount securities, whereby the discount will be treated as income accruing over the life of the stock on a compound yield basis, the treasury said.

• Directors of International Paint have agreed terms that will allow the company's parent group, Courtaulds, to buy out the publicly held 12.2 per cent minority shareholding it does not already own.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$378.90 pm \$318.90
close \$377.50-378.25 (\$264.75-265.25)
New York (close): \$378.75
Kruegerand* (per coin): \$388-390.50 (\$272.75-273.25)
Sovereigns* (new): \$88-89 (\$61.75-62.50)
*Excludes VAT

Shares lose early gains

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones) – Stocks slowed in early trading yesterday, giving up the strong gains recorded at the start.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up about 2½ points after having been up by more than four, while the transportation index was down nearly three points.

Advances held a slim 7-10 lead over declines and trading was active.

Mr Philip B. Erlanger, chief technical analyst for Advest Inc, said: "I am becoming more and more bullish despite some of the sentiment indicators."

There is a buying opportunity here while the market pauses to digest its gains. It should close higher.

General Electric was up ½ at 58½; General Motors up ½ at

58½; Ford up ½ at 58½.

Pound rises on hopes of more stable market

BNOC to hold N Sea oil price

By David Young Energy Correspondent

North Sea oil prices are to remain unchanged at \$30 a barrel on the world market, to the relief of other producers and the international oil trading market.

Britain's indirect influence on policy decisions by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has been confirmed by world reaction to the decision yesterday to leave North Sea oil prices at their present levels for four months.

The decision yesterday by the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), the state-owned trading company which places North Sea oil on world markets, removes considerable doubts among oil traders.

It had an immediate effect on sterling, which closed up ½ a cent against the dollar at \$1.4275, although the official price on North Sea crude will not officially be confirmed at its existing level for another week.

The Opec agreement on prices and production quotas reached in Geneva three weeks ago was, when described as "magical". The BNOC decision makes it more likely that Opec

can keep to that agreement until its next meeting on July 20, in Geneva or Vienna.

Although British production is small by comparison with Opec output, North Sea oil competes directly on the world markets with the oil produced by the smaller countries among Opec's 13 state members.

For that reason the North Sea now influences Opec decisions.

BNOC's decision will aid Opec in its attempt to stabilize the world oil market. It will also stimulate oil demand by giving consumers a long-term price structure and help to control oil output to a level which can be absorbed by industrial consumers.

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can keep to that agreement until its next meeting on July 20, in Geneva or Vienna.

GrandMet's 34% profits rise disappoints market

By Jeremy Warner

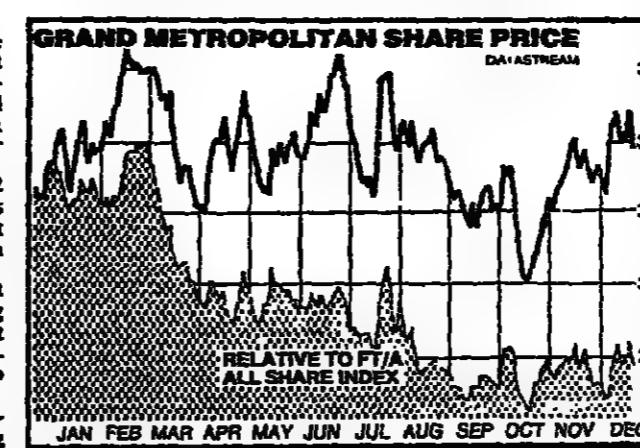
A strong improvement in the United States and lower interest charges helped Grand Metropolitan, the brewing, hotels and leisure group, to increase pretax profits by 34 per cent in the year to the end of September.

When the group reported a 52 per cent leap in half-year profits in May it gave a warning that it was unrealistic to expect growth at this rate to be maintained.

This, however, did not prevent analysts from floating some airy forecasts in recent weeks. As a result, the company's shares fell 5p to 338p yesterday.

The board is making a one-for-five scrip issue to bring share capital more in line with inflated group reserves. It is also increasing the final dividend by 18 per cent to 5.75p, thus bringing the total for the year to 9.625p, against 8.375p.

Group pretax profits rose from £220.2m to £295.2m after a £22.8m fall in the interest charge to £11.8m. Lower interest rates in both Britain and the United States and the £125m rights issue 18 months ago were the main factors



behind the lower bank borrowing costs.

The group's strong dollar earnings, which in consumer products were as much as 31 per cent higher, were given a further boost by the currency fluctuations of the last year.

The pound's fall against the dollar is estimated to have added about £20m to aggregate profits.

Trading profits from com-

pany products in the United States rose from £64.7m to £98.4m, thanks largely to a remarkable gain in volume by Liggett & Myers which has benefited from the shift away from branded to generic tobacco products in the United States.

Mr Stanley Grinstead, chairman, said that hotels made better profits in a year when the integration of the group's original portfolio of hotels into Intercontinental was completed.

The wines and spirits division also consolidated its

profits in wines and spirits.

Trading profits in wines and

spirits rose from £98.1m to £104.5m and hotel profits were up from £22.9m to £27.3m.

OECD lifts shares

The FT Index reached a fresh peak for the fourth day in succession yesterday, as share prices continued to forge ahead, helped by an encouraging indication of the bright view of the British economy painted in this week's report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The 30-share index closed 4.2

points higher at 776.2

and 1.1 for 1,000, value

RECENT ISSUES

	Price
Argus Holdings (Op Ord (115a))	140
BP (Ord (115b))	166
Brewer's (Ord (3125p))	72
Dataset Inc (Ord 50.05)	50
Post Holdings (Ord 154a)	138
French Connection (Ord (125a))	138
High-Pot Pot Services (Op Ord (132a))	138
Johnson & Johnson (Op Ord (25a))	82
Kodak (Ord (135a))	138
Logica (Ord (220))	298
MME Facilities (Op Ord (40a))	40
Mobson (Ord (96a))	94
Motorola (Ord (155a))	124
PCT (Op Ord (120a))	124
Perficon (Op Ord (140a))	163
Prudential (Ord (150a))	31
Swire (Ord (100a))	91
Tay Horse (Ord (90a))	92
Tyne Tees (Ord (A) 'NV' (133a))	130

Issue price in parentheses. * Unlisted Securities. * by tender.

1982/83

High Low Stock	Price	Change	Gross	Div	Yield	Ref.
BRITISH FUNDS						

A better-than-expected set of November trade figures, showing a return to the black, gave a boost to the equity market yesterday, which still shows few signs of running out of steam.

The FT Index maintained its record-breaking run, closing at its high for the day, 4.2 up at a record 776.2, with renewed bid activity and stock shortages keeping prices on the ball.

Most of the market's business had been completed by lunchtime and for the rest of the session it was left up to the cheerful survey on the economy from the OECD and overnight strength on Wall Street to keep sentiment alive.

Gills scored encouraging gains up to 5% at the longer end, cheered by the news from America which pointed to an easing in the upward pressure on interest rates. On foreign exchange's the pound closed 50 points up against the dollar, at \$1.427.

Among blue chips, Bowater, the pulp and paper specialist complex stood out with a 1% rise to a new high of 267p as the bid rumours continued to gain momentum. Close observers

reckon somebody is trying to build up a stake prior to a bid. US support was also good for Glaxo, 1.5p higher at 72.5p, after recent weakness, and ICI, 1.2p at 660p. P & O Deferred also after nervous selling earlier in the week on hopes the Monopolies Commission will allow the contested bid from Trafalgar House to proceed.

Profit-taking among the High Street banks made a dull picture for the sector as a whole. Barclays lost 5p at 439p, Lloyds 7p at 532p.

Among the merchant banks, Kflewar Benson continued to gain ground, rising 7p to 430p following the abortive dawn raid by broker L. Messel on behalf of unnamed Middle Eastern clients on Wednesday.

They had been hoping to pick up about 10 per cent of the company, but in the event failed to buy up any shares at around the 395p level.

But there was profit-taking

among the discount houses where rumours of a possible tripartite bid had kept prices on the move all week. Alexander's Discount lost 7p to 332p, Smith & Amby, 4p to 329p and Jessel Thynne, 2p to 68p.

Broker de Zoete & Bevan has predicted that the recovery in profits forecast by McCarthy's Pharmaceuticals is unlikely to occur and say this is now fully reflected in the group's low rating. For the present year, de Zoete is looking for pretax profits of £4.1m, against £4.4m last time. The shares closed unchanged at 141p.

Tricentrol's quoted offshoot, Combined Technologies, enjoyed a spurt of 1p to 21p on a broker's buy recommendation, but Polly Peck, the biggest of Mr Asif Nadir's three publicly-quoted companies, lost a further 1.5% to £23.5p on further reflection of the group's annual report and

accounts, accompanied by proposals for a share split and placing to raise £5m.

In stores, Sears Holdings, the Savone to Liley & Skinner shoe retailer, added 2p to 83p following yesterday's article in *The Times* confirming the group was looking for a quote for its shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Share of FIL, formerly Footwear Industries Investments, continued to scale new heights, rising 1.5p to 200p on hopes that sales of its new inhaler, which it is claimed can alleviate the common cold and hay fever, will be well received.

On the Unlisted Securities Market, shares of DBE Technology Group, the subject of a reverse takeover by what was left of Bell Electronics, started life at 120p and continued to rise throughout the day, to close at 140p.

Shares of Bell have been

suspended since July 27, after Ferranti's decision to pay £1m for 9 per cent of Bell.

Meanwhile, Ault & Wiborg, the specialist oil concern, was briefly suspended, awaiting an announcement from the company. They later returned, 11p higher at 44p, following the terms of a minority bid from Sun Oil, which earlier this year was unable to agree on a price with the board of A & W.

Sir Monty Finniston, former chairman of BSC and now in the chair at Chemical Methods, is excited by the group's prospects. Independent trials of the group's Bright abrasives indicate a better performance to anything currently available on the market, he says.

Full-scale production will be starting in the first quarter of the New Year. Recently, Chemical Methods and its broker, Statham Duff Stoop, which brought the group to market earlier this year, parted company under a cloud.

Ling and Cruckshank has been appointed Chemical's new broker. The shares ended the day unchanged.

THE TIMES 1000
1983/84

The World's Top Companies

Full statistical details and addresses: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc. From bookshops at £17.50 or £19.00 (inc. postage & packing) from Times Books Ltd, 16 Golden Square, London, W1.

1982/83	Low Company	Price	Change	Yield %	Div Yld
50	Marconi West	51	-1	2.75	5.5
51	New Jersey Inc	52	1	6.18	5.5
52	N. Three Inc	53	1	5.55	5.5
53	Do Top	54	1	5.55	5.5
54	West Corp	55	1	5.55	5.5
55	North Atlantic	56	1	5.55	5.5
56	Oil & Associates	57	1	5.55	5.5
57	Pentland	58	1	5.55	5.5
58	Aspetech	59	1	5.55	5.5
59	Roberts	60	1	5.55	5.5
60	Scot Invest	61	1	5.55	5.5
61	Scot Northern	62	1	5.55	5.5
62	Scot Northern	63	1	5.55	5.5
63	Stewart Hart	64	1	5.55	5.5
64	Stockholders	65	1	5.55	5.5
65	TRC of London	66	1	5.55	5.5
66	TRC of London	67	1	5.55	5.5
67	TRC of London	68	1	5.55	5.5
68	TRC of London	69	1	5.55	5.5
69	TRC of London	70	1	5.55	5.5
70	TRC of London	71	1	5.55	5.5
71	TRC of London	72	1	5.55	5.5
72	TRC of London	73	1	5.55	5.5
73	TRC of London	74	1	5.55	5.5
74	TRC of London	75	1	5.55	5.5
75	TRC of London	76	1	5.55	5.5
76	TRC of London	77	1	5.55	5.5
77	TRC of London	78	1	5.55	5.5
78	TRC of London	79	1	5.55	5.5
79	TRC of London	80	1	5.55	5.5
80	TRC of London	81	1	5.55	5.5
81	TRC of London	82	1	5.55	5.5
82	TRC of London	83	1	5.55	5.5
83	TRC of London	84	1	5.55	5.5
84	TRC of London	85	1	5.55	5.5
85	TRC of London	86	1	5.55	5.5
86	TRC of London	87	1	5.55	5.5
87	TRC of London	88	1	5.55	5.5
88	TRC of London	89	1	5.55	5.5
89	TRC of London	90	1	5.55	5.5
90	TRC of London	91	1	5.55	5.5
91	TRC of London	92	1	5.55	5.5
92	TRC of London	93	1	5.55	5.5
93	TRC of London	94	1	5.55	5.5
94	TRC of London	95	1	5.55	5.5
95	TRC of London	96	1	5.55	5.5
96	TRC of London	97	1	5.55	5.5
97	TRC of London	98	1	5.55	5.5
98	TRC of London	99	1	5.55	5.5
99	TRC of London	100	1	5.55	5.5
100	TRC of London	101	1	5.55	5.5
101	TRC of London	102	1	5.55	5.5
102	TRC of London	103	1	5.55	5.5
103	TRC of London	104	1	5.55	5.5
104	TRC of London	105	1	5.55	5.5
105	TRC of London	106	1	5.55	5.5
106	TRC of London	107	1	5.55	5.5
107	TRC of London	108	1	5.55	5.5
108	TRC of London	109	1	5.55	5.5
109	TRC of London	110	1	5.55	5.5
110	TRC of London	111	1	5.55	5.5
111	TRC of London	112	1	5.55	5.5
112	TRC of London	113	1	5.55	5.5
113	TRC of London	114	1	5.55	5.5
114	TRC of London	115	1	5.55	5.5
115	TRC of London	116	1	5.55	5.5
116	TRC of London	117	1	5.55	5.5
117	TRC of London	118	1	5.55	5.5
118	TRC of London	119	1	5.55	5.5
119	TRC of London	120	1	5.55	5.5
120	TRC of London	121	1	5.55	5.5
121	TRC of London	122	1	5.55	5.5
122	TRC of London	123	1	5.55	5.5
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125	TRC of London	126	1	5.55	5.5
126	TRC of London	127	1	5.55	5.5
127	TRC of London	128	1	5.55	5.5
128	TRC of London	129	1	5.55	5.5
129	TRC of London	130	1	5.55	5.5
130	TRC of London	131	1	5.55	5.5
131	TRC of London	132	1	5.55	5.5
132	TRC of London	133	1	5.55	5.5
133	TRC of London	134	1		

Rugby in the wars: the sin of commission that is the omission of Davies

Tactics order of the day in game's running battle

By Gerald Davies

It was J. J. Stewart, after long and distinguished services as administrator and coach in New Zealand, who said that he had only learnt one thing for certain throughout his rugby career: that there is more than one way of playing the game. Listening to the current arguments which have arisen over the recent mixture of good fortune and bad which have attended the Welsh side so far, this could be interpreted, mistakenly, to mean that there are two ways.

There are those who, with evangelical tones, wish blithely to promote running rugby as if it were some new idea born in the 1980s. As with such phrases as "gain line" and "second-phase possession" of a decade ago, which the new, rising class of coaches sought to revolutionise the game, running rugby is fast becoming a cliché mouthed with emphatic capital letters.

Less fanciful

Others, in hectoring tones, want to pursue, in these uncertain times in Welsh rugby, something less fanciful. Pontypool are the most successful side, so they argue, therefore the national team ought to play in a similar tight fashion.

As both camps settle in their different corners, they are each dismissive of the other's argument. As a policy, running rugby it must be, of course, but there is a danger in adopting a

self-righteous and rigid posture as if nothing else mattered. It is contagious. Whispers from over the border suggest that there were some misgivings, even regret, that England, in beating New Zealand, should have played a more open game. In the context of an historical victory, this is a lot of retrospective hogwash.

To play a running game initially can be no more than a strategy which coaches can prepare off the field so as to instil the right attitude, but it is the players on the field who will determine whether this is the best way, tactically, to win the game. Games are won or lost depending on how effectively the players can take advantage of their own and their team's strengths to exploit the weaknesses of the opposition. There is more than one way in which any one game can be played depending on the ebb and flow of the match. It needs a shrewd tactician to be aware of that.

In announcing the Welsh squad, the Welsh Rugby Union selectors, in omitting Gareth Davies, have left themselves open to criticism, and possible embarrassment, if this largely untested squad fail to deliver the goods. Davies's exclusion last year may have been justified but it is no longer so, featuring so prominently as he does in Cardiff's present success.

In the context of the back line

as a whole which, if the selectors base their final decision, as they must, on the performances of those teams who played against Japan, Romania and France B, there is a lack of generalship and experience. They came close to defeat against Japan and lost ignominiously against Romania for want of that tactical awareness.

It needs a strong personality with tactical nous, preferably in or on both of the half-back positions, to bring out the best in any team. This is particularly so in view of the fact that membership of the back row is in doubt and open to debate. If, as it looks, the front five will be just about right, the back five, as Carwyn James often referred to the back row and half backs, lacks a commanding figure and overall balance. The loss of Jeff Squire, through retirement and the powerfully ubiquitous Holmes, through long-suffering injuries denies the team that essential authority this season.

It would be a shame that in

pursuing a commendably adventurous approach the Welsh selectors have been blind to the qualities which Gareth Davies could well have brought to the team. He, too, can run with the ball if the need demands, provided he has other players to support him.

Derbyshire at the Polehill Ground at 1.45 pm. Staffordshire start the programme at Sydney Road half an hour later with a game against Northamptonshire.

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The Midlands play in Bedford with Leicestershire, Reading, Staffordshire and Warwickshire in one point with a match in hand. Herefordshire, however, have their stiffer opposition still to come. They play at the National Sports Centre, Bisham Abbey, near Marlow.



Lacking balance

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HOCKEY

An end to Monday's fun

By Joyce Whitehead

On Boxing Day many players join with the men in their one mixed match of the year. It is fun and games for all. Then the county championship begins in earnest.

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Peace talks by HA

England's leading hockey officials will hand out a New Year olive-branch to their Great Britain counterparts in an attempt to patch up their differences in time for the Anglo-German Cup. The Hockey Association have invited representatives of the Great Britain men's board and team management to their next meeting in London on January 5.

At present leading player's could be asked to compete in the European Cup for England and be selected for Great Britain Olympic trials or preparation matches on the same weekend. The Hockey Association's management committee have also set up a 10-man working party, under the chairmanship of Robin Elliott, to identify the prime players of interest between the two bodies.

YACHTING

Britain close the gap

From John Roberson, Sydney

little for the remainder of this round, but on the second windward leg, Poms moved into second place.

When the corrected times had been calculated the New Zealand yacht Pacific Sundancer recorded her second win of the series, but the other yachts in her team could only manage 13th and 22nd. This poor showing has narrowed their lead to only 25 points ahead of Britain, not a difficult margin to lose in the triple points scoring Sydney to North America.

There were three general recalls, before the fleet of 27 yachts, loaded with some of the world's best yachtsmen, got away cleanly on the first windward leg in a patchy 3 to 8 knot breeze. At the first mark, the Poms had a 10-point lead.

This predominantly light wind series has had to much to rectify the myopic put about by Australian yachting that they only sail in 20 knot breeze.

Imran Khan, who has won the 1982 America's Cup, has announced his plans to retire next year, "God willing".

When the teams met in a one-day game at the Kingsmead ground

during the first four earlier this year the West Indian XI were bowled to victory by Stephenson, who took six wickets for nine runs on a responsive pitch.

Now expect the pitch to help the quick bowlers today, but the West Indians will still rely heavily on their fast bowling attack of Stephenson, Clarke, Moseley and Alleyne, backed up by the spin of Parry.

The Springboks are expected to select two spinners, Kourie and Hobson, and leave out one of their fast bowlers, Hanley or Roux.

SOUTH AFRICAN XI (from left): B. M. Clarke, C. B. Parry, A. Kourie, R. V. Jennings, S. T. Jeffries, G. S. Roux, D. Hobson, R. Hanley

WEST INDIAN XI (from left): L. G. Stephenson, E. Trotman, A. I. Kallicharran, M. A. Lynch, G. King, F. de C. Stephenson, D. A. Moseley, S. Alleyne, R. Parry, E. A. Hobson, S. T. Clarke, H. Alleyne.

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Applying for stay is not disputing jurisdiction

Astro Exito Navegacion SA v Hsu
Before Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Robert Goff
(Judgment delivered December 20)

The Court of Appeal held that an application by a defendant for a stay of proceedings, where there could be no question of his disputing the jurisdiction of the court, was not an application under Order 12, rule 8(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court; and that, in any event, by making an application for an order striking out a writ, the defendant had voluntarily submitted to the jurisdiction and could not thereafter dispute the jurisdiction of the court.

The court allowed a cross appeal by plaintiffs from an order granting the defendant an extension of time within which to lodge a further acknowledgment of service so as to prevent the plaintiffs entering judgment in default, following the dismissal of his applications (i) for a stay of the proceedings, on the basis

that there was another clearly more appropriate forum, and (ii) to strike out the writ and pending an appeal on the former. The application for the extension of time had been made on the basis that the application for a stay of the proceedings was an application under Order 12, rule 8(1). His Lordship held that the application for a stay of the proceedings was not an application under Order 12, rule 8(1).

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, giving the judgment of the court, said that the application for a stay of proceedings was not an application under Order 12, rule 8(1).

Only where a party, on one of the grounds specified in that rule, sought relief in which he disputed the jurisdiction of the court, was it in any event open for the defendant thereafter to dispute the jurisdiction of the court. The procedure which fell within Order 12, rule 8(1) could not be open to a litigant who had already submitted to the jurisdiction of the court. As he had been served personally with the writ in this country, it was difficult to see on what ground he could possibly do so.

Solicitors: Holman, Fenwick & Willan.

Settled tax appeal cannot be reopened

Scorer (Inspector of Taxes) v Oilin Energy Systems Ltd
Before Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Kerr
(Judgment delivered December 19)

Where an appeal against assessment to income or corporation tax had been settled by agreement under section 510 of the Income Tax Act 1952 (now section 54 of the Taxes Management Act 1970), any claim clearly raised by implication by the taxpayer in the appeal was deemed to be settled in the same manner as the claim was.

The Court of Appeal as held, Lord Justice Kerr dissenting, allowing an appeal by Oilin Energy Systems Ltd from a decision of Mr Justice Walker (see *ITR* 1983, 15, 1582) who on July 30, 1982, had allowed an appeal by Mr Kenneth Scorer, Inspector of Taxes, against a determination of the Special Commissioners that the taxpayer could not be assessed to corporation tax in respect of a period for which it had previously been agreed between the taxpayer and an inspector that its liability was nil.

Mr Graham Aaronson, QC for the taxpayer; Mr Donald Potter, QC and Mr Robert Carnwath for the inspector.

LOD JUSTICE FOX said that it was clear from the authorities that section 510(1) would protect a taxpayer from an assessment to tax, where the point in dispute on the second occasion had been the subject-matter of an agreement between the taxpayer and the inspector under section 510 on an earlier appeal.

LOD JUSTICE KERR, dissenting, said that on an appeal against an assessment, status had placed on the taxpayer the burden of displacing the assessment. Moreover, he was required to lodge a notice settling the grounds of appeal. Section 510 had to be construed in that context.

Unless the taxpayer could show that a specified ground of appeal had been raised so as to create an issue on the correctness of the assessment and had been disposed of by agreement either expressly or impliedly, he could not rely on the protection afforded by section 510(1).

In his Lordship's judgment, the true point in issue in this case had not been raised either expressly or impliedly in the first appeal, and he would dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Linklater & Paines; Paines, Inland Revenue.

Correction

In *R v Corfield* (The Times December 17) it should be made clear that the material irregularity on the basis of which the appeal was allowed was at the stage at which an additional cause was added.

Section 510 had been passed to protect taxpayers by producing finality, and Parliament must have contemplated that a taxpayer would

be protected even though the inspector had erred.

If the taxpayer, albeit honestly, had provided misleading information to the inspector, the situation would have been different, but the problem did not arise in this case.

It had been argued that the administrative burdens on inspectors were such that section 510(1) ought not to be construed so as to require an inspector to go searching for facts in previous papers before he could safely conclude an agreement.

That section had been enacted to protect taxpayers and the courts had been asked to limit its operation in the interests of administrative convenience.

In his Lordship's judgment the point now in issue had been the subject of the previous agreement and could not now be reopened. He would allow the appeal.

LOD JUSTICE FOX said that it was clear from the authorities that section 510(1) would protect a taxpayer from an assessment to tax, where the point in dispute on the second occasion had been the subject-matter of an agreement between the taxpayer and the inspector under section 510 on an earlier appeal.

Unless the taxpayer could show that a specified ground of appeal had been raised so as to create an issue on the correctness of the assessment and had been disposed of by agreement either expressly or impliedly, he could not rely on the protection afforded by section 510(1).

In his Lordship's judgment, the true point in issue in this case had not been raised either expressly or impliedly in the first appeal, and he would dismiss the appeal.

Solicitors: Linklater & Paines; Paines, Inland Revenue.

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Hours of retained fireman depend on time on call

Suffolk County Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another
Before Mr Justice Woolf
(Judgment delivered December 20)

The effect of a stay, if granted, would not have been to set aside the proceedings; it would have been simply to stop the plaintiff from pursuing that action any further at that stage. The defendant had lodged an acknowledgement of service and had not thereafter made any application under Order 12, rule 8(1), his acknowledgement of service was by virtue of rule 8(1), treated as a submission to the jurisdiction of the court.

Further, by applying for an order striking out a paragraph of the claim indorsed on the writ the defendant had not submitted to the jurisdiction of the court. In those circumstances, it was in any event open for the defendant thereafter to dispute the jurisdiction of the court. The procedure which fell within Order 12, rule 8(1) could not be open to a litigant who had already submitted to the jurisdiction of the court.

Mr Steven Gee for Astro: Mr Hsu did not appear and was not represented.

LOD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, giving the judgment of the court, said that the application for a stay of proceedings was not an application under Order 12, rule 8(1).

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CRICKET

Lynch defies Surrey and remains with rebel team in South Africa

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Though advised not to do so by his county, Surrey, and threatened by the Test and County Cricket Board with rustication if he should, Monte Lynch has decided to stay in South Africa and to honour his commitment to the West Indian side now on an 11-week tour of the Republic. The executive committee of the TCCB announced last week that, if Lynch were to play in South Africa, they would recommend to the full board, at their meeting on December 13, that his English qualification should be cancelled.

Early yesterday morning Surrey contacted Lynch in Pretoria and presented him with the party line. Soon afterwards they issued a statement which said that, while they disagreed with the TCCB's stance, they had told Lynch that it might, in the long run, be in his and their own best interests to heed the board's warning. Soon after midday Lynch rang back to say that he would be staying in South Africa.

He is now burnt his boats so far as ever playing for England (his own ambition) is concerned? Will he, in fact, no longer be classified as an Englishman, which he is at the moment by reason of having lived in Walton on Thames since, as a boy, he came to England from Guyana?

Should he be reclassified as an "overseas" player, so long as

he stays with Surrey he will be competing with Sylvester Clarke and Geoff Howard for one, or at the best two, available places. This would depend upon whether Lynch's Surrey registration was considered to date, as it does now, from 1977 (in which case he and one of the other two could play in the same Surrey side) or whether, being reclassified, he would also have to be re-registered.

What may happen? I imagine that the TCCB will relent in so far as allowing Lynch to remain an "English" player is concerned but that they will ban him from Test cricket for three years, as they did Gooch and the 14 other Englishmen who went to South Africa early last year. Even if they do that there must be a chance of their being sued for restraint of trade, with Lynch being supported by South Africa inasmuch as at the time of last year's ban there were those who considered that the TCCB would have been on a sticky wicket had they been taken to court.

Lynch and Surrey did seem to me to be wanting the best of both worlds in thinking that Lynch, because he is a West Indian, could play for a West Indian side, albeit an unrepresentative one, in South Africa without jeopardising his English qualification. If Lamb and Christopher Smith were to play for South Africa in their forthcoming series with the

West Indians, there would be no question of their not forfeiting their eligibility for England.

From the point of view of the black cricketers in South Africa I am delighted Lynch will be playing there. He could light a candle, perhaps even a bonfire, in the townships. The Surrey manager, Mick Stewart, said last night that he was sorry Lynch had spoilt his chances of selection for England, at any rate for a while. He also expressed a wish that the case be kept out of the courts, a sentiment which will be shared by the TCCB who, whatever they decide, now have another regulation concerning players from overseas to tighten up.

• PRETORIA. Alvin Kallis, charmed a rapid 92 as the rebel West Indian team showed more of their true form on the final day of their three-day match against Northern Transvaal yesterday (Reuters report). But the winning target of 272 proved too much and once the Guyanese left-hander had beaten the tourists to a sticky wicket had they been taken to court.

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Pakistan change captain

Islamabad (Reuters) The Pakistani cricket authorities yesterday ruled that Imran Khan, the captain, would take no part in the current series in Australia and said that Zahoor Abbas, vice-captain, would take over the captaincy for the remaining four Test matches.

Naseer Khan, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, said in Lahore that the decision was taken by the board's council yesterday in the light of latest medical reports about Imran's fitness. The Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

Imran, who is suffering from a stress fracture of the left side, was appointed last month to lead the team to Australia for the five-Test match series. He missed the first Test in Perth and said last week that he was not optimistic about being fit for the second Test match beginning in Brisbane on Friday.

Naseer Khan said Imran would not be called home and he had been advised to get treatment in Australia. The BCCP would pay all his medical expenses. If Imran recovers before the end of the tour, he will play under Zahoor Abbas.



Imran: not going home

The president said there was no urgent need to replace a replacement, but added that Zahoor Nawaz and a number of other pace bowlers, as well as certain batsmen, were under consideration as possible reinforcements.

Imran was appointed captain last month against the wishes of the selection committee which resigned in protest at this and other changes in its recommended team.

The board was later criticised by several Pakistani cricket writers since Imran has not been fit enough to play on the tour.

From red to black in Gloucester

Gloucestershire made a profit of £21,000 in the year ending September 30. That, they say in their annual report, is a "miracle". Faced with a projected loss of more than £50,000, and subsequent insolvency, there was a dramatic turn in fortunes at the end of the season.

Gloucestershire were saved by the greatly increased contribution from the Test and County Board, the sports' website at Cheltenham, which led to record gate receipts, and last-minute sponsorship; sale of treasury stock; increased donations; and a greater surplus from the Jessop Taverners Club. The club are now £65,000 in the red from previous years.

Lancashire have recovered from their record loss of £15,000 in 1982 to make a profit of £15,000 on last season. Ground advertising at Old Trafford was up by £25,000 and there were substantial increases in match sponsorship and catering income.

Cedric Rhodes, the Lancashire chairman said yesterday: "Everyone at the club has worked tremendous hard in fighting back after the 1982 disaster".

ATHLETICS

Doctors 'blundered' in US drugs walk-out

Indianapolis (Reuters) - Doctors with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) were partially to blame for the withdrawal of 11 American athletes from the Pan American games in Caracas in August, a report has claimed.

A five-member commission was appointed by the Athletics Congress (TAC), the governing body of athletics in the United States, to investigate circumstances surrounding the walk-out. Their report, released yesterday, said: "There is clear evidence to the effect that the medical team with the USOC gave advice conflicting with that given by the TAC staff. Some such advice, in fact, was erroneous."

The report cited an example where one USOC doctor in Caracas was reported to have advised the testing equipment might be able to detect a drug which was not yet submitted to the problem. Last September USOC created a task force on drug control, a principal function of which will be research and educational activities.

Since new drugs appear on the market almost daily, a list of banned drugs can never be totally up to date, the commission said. It suggested a list of "safe" drugs for standard medical problems be made available.

The American weightlifter, Jeff Moses speaks for depoliticized promised land

Lawrence (Reuters) - The athletes' commission of the International Olympic Committee issued a statement on Monday condemning the "repeated intrusions of politics in the Olympic movement".

The statement, drafted by Ed Moses of the United States, the world 400 metres hurdles champion and four-time Olympian, of the eight-member commission here, said: "We feel that the majority of today's competitors would like to be able to harvest the fruits of their dedicated efforts and compete without undue political influence or stress."

In desperation, however, Miss Geesee took the next five points to win the tie-break 7-4 and secure one of her best results of the year. Her volleys were particularly impressive and her game unusually relaxed, something her father thought had much to do with the way she was feeling.

Lisa Pennington, a former winner of the British 18 and under hard court championships, defeated Lorraine (Lorraine) of Manchester, 2-6, 7-6, 6-1, 6-1. Alison (Alison) of Woking (Woking) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) of S. Berne, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) of Woking (Woking) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) of J. H. H. 6-2, 6-2.

1st ROUND: J. Warnings (West) 6-1, H. Howes (West) 6-1, L. Pennington 6-1, I. Geesee 6-1, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

2nd round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

3rd round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

4th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

5th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

6th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

7th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

8th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

9th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

10th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

11th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

12th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

13th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

14th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

15th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

16th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

17th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

18th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

19th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

20th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

21st round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

22nd round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

23rd round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

24th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. S. Sutton (S. Sutton) 6-2, 6-2.

25th round: L. Pennington (West) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. C. Fletcher (US) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. I. Geesee (I. Geesee) 6-2,